

# The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1877.

## The Week.

THE President sent in the New York nominations again on Monday, and they are at this writing before the Senate, but, as regards Roosevelt and Prince, have again been opposed by Mr. Conkling and his Committee. It appears, however, that this opposition is, after all, a movement in aid of civil-service reform. Against Merritt's nomination, which is really objectionable, he has nothing to say, because Merritt is to succeed Sharpe, whose commission had expired, but Roosevelt and Prince are to succeed Arthur and Cornell, whose term has not expired. Conkling, therefore, in the discharge of a solemn public duty, naturally enquires why should these two gentlemen be removed before the end of their terms? What have they done? If they have done nothing worthy of punishment, how can he as a patriot consent to their dismissal? Accordingly, he wrote on behalf of his Committee (on Commerce) to the Secretary of the Treasury to ask the cause of their removal, and the answer being unsatisfactory, he, of course, cannot consent to it. It is quite true that under General Grant the great Senator did not act on this rule, but obtained arbitrary and sudden dismissals whenever they seemed likely to serve his own interests, and this is now urged against him; but it is only urged by persons who do not believe in human improvement, in the growth of character, in the gradual elevation of the whole man through grace and meditation and experience. Because a Senator was hostile to reform a year ago is he to continue hostile always? Is he not to be allowed to do good in his own time and in his own way when he feels the love of good growing within him?

This view of the matter is strengthened by the course pursued by Mr. Arthur. He is a gentleman, and gentlemen are supposed to be very sensitive about staying in places where they are not wanted, or waiting to be turned out in preference to resigning. He has, however, not only refused to resign, but refuses to go out when dismissed by the President, and the reason is, he says, that the President did not ask for his resignation at the right time or in the right way. He ought to have asked for it in the very beginning, and ought to have said nothing about it until he had received it. Having waited too long and announced that he was going to ask for it "with a flourish of trumpets," Mr. Arthur says he won't resign at all, and will, if he can, remain Collector of this port whether the President and the Secretary of the Treasury wish it or not. This little example of discipline and order he thinks he owes to his country and his party. If anybody doubts whether he is right he refers them to the New York Republican delegation, who, finding that the President was interfering with the appointing power in Mr. Conkling's hands, have, with the exception of Mr. Bacon, requested the President not to interfere with Mr. Conkling's executive functions, and not to destroy "harmony" by doing things Mr. Conkling does not like. He refers them also to a large body of merchants who want him to remain in office, and with whose management of the Custom-house the President, Mr. Hayes, seems to be interfering. The President, it is said, read the fifth resolution of the Cincinnati platform to the New York delegation, which must have made them laugh a good deal. Some of them have often heard the same sort of thing from Mlle. Aimée. It only remains for us to congratulate this great State on the kind of "senior Senator" it has. An ordinary man in that place would be occupied with the coarser interests of this busy commercial community—the currency, the national credit, the port, the tariff, the revenue system, the municipal administration—all of which have so much to do with its purely mundane prosperity. On this low class of questions the great man hardly seems to bestow a thought.

In Congress, there is little to report from the House. On Monday the President's Message was distributed among the various committees, and on motion of Mr. Hewitt "urgency" was voted for the Mexican border troubles, which were referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, with instructions to consider and report immediately. The debate over this motion showed a general desire for peace with Mexico, especially among Southerners. In the Senate, on Thursday, a great batch of renewed nominations was received from the President, including the obnoxious New York Custom-house appointees. This is said to have occasioned in executive session a very lively interchange of "courtesies" among Senators, in which Mr. Conkling attacked the President, Mr. Matthews defended him, and Judge Davis and Mr. Thurman also took sides characteristically. Mr. Allison moved to fix a day for the consideration of his Silver Bill, and, after a long debate, Tuesday, the 12th inst., was selected by an ominous vote of 41 to 18, or two-thirds. On the same Thursday Mr. Matthews introduced a concurrent resolution declaring that all the United States bonds issued under the acts of July 14, 1870, and January 14, 1875, "are payable, principal and interest, at the option of the Government of the United States, in silver dollars of the coinage of the United States, containing 412½ grains each of standard silver; and that to restore to its coinage such silver coin as a legal tender in payment of said bonds, principal and interest, is not in violation of the public faith, nor in derogation of the rights of the public creditor." This was laid on the table and printed, and was called up by the mover on Monday, when he advocated its passage in a speech of some length. Mr. Conkling sought to have it made a joint resolution, in order to bring it within reach of the President's veto, and debate on it still continues as we go to press, even the Silver Bill giving way to it. On Thursday, also, Mr. Chaffee, of California, followed the example set in the House, by calling upon the President for information as to what legal impediments prevented him from executing the laws in regard to the Union Pacific Company and its branches, the Kansas Pacific and Denver Pacific. This is the grievance alluded to by Secretary Schurz in his annual report. The Union Pacific, by its discriminations against these roads (equally, in the intention of the law, parts of the main continental line), and refusal to "pro-rate" with them for passengers and freight, has thrown the Kansas Pacific into the hands of a receiver. On Friday, the Senate passed the amended House bill for the relief of the *Huron* survivors, and agreed with the House to adjourn for the period Dec. 15-Jan. 10. On Monday, Mr. Eastis, of Louisiana, was admitted to his seat by a vote of 49 to 8, a foregone conclusion, quite irrespective of Pinchback's magnanimous resignation the day before. The Senate is now for the first time in four years full, with a total membership of 76.

Mr. Stanley Matthews's speech was like most of those he has delivered on public questions since he came so suddenly into public notice last year—that is, a piece of special pleading in support of some form of trickery about finances. His last on the silver question would have made the reputation of one of the "counsellors" at the Tombs police court. His argument was that inasmuch as the Act of 1869, "to strengthen the public credit," said the public debt was payable in "coin," and as silver is coin, it is, therefore, "right," in all senses of the word, to pay it now, principal and interest, in silver. It so happens that this is the very argument produced by the earliest herd of repudiators after the war, which the Act of 1869 was passed to meet. The Acts authorizing the two first loans contracted after the outbreak of the war, that of 1861 and that of 1862, making in all over \$700,000,000, made them payable, principal and interest, at certain dates, but did not say in what money, and did not mention "coin" at all. The war was hardly over, therefore, when that extraordinary class of politicians who are always looking out for some little swindle or cheat to recommend to the people, lighted on

this omission, and fairly crowed with joy over it. "Ha, ha!" they said, "we have got 'em now." The bonds do not say in what money they are payable; therefore they are payable in lawful money of the United States—*i. e.*, legal-tender notes. Let us print a ton or two of these notes and pay 'the sharps' off, and live happily ever after!" And they declared, as Mr. Matthews says, that it was "right," and that anybody who said it was not, was a "Shylock" and a "blood-sucker."

All this naturally excited alarm among the "money sharps," but the Republican party was not then as demoralized on the money question as it has since become, and it passed the Act of 1869, sweeping away this wretched technicality and declaring all the obligations of the United States payable "in coin," under the well-known rule which governs the interpretation of all promises, that what the promisor owes is what he led or allowed the promisee to understand or expect. Coin meant gold, and has meant gold in everybody's mind for years, and nobody supposed or expected that it would come to mean something worth ten per cent. less than gold, and that Republican philosophers would appear in the Senate to propose another verbal juggle at the expense of the public creditor.

The disposition made of the Patterson case by Judge Humphreys, of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, will not tend to increase the respect of the country for the District judiciary. The only law which he cites as applicable to the case appears to be just such as was needed to justify the surrender of Patterson to the South Carolina authorities—*i. e.*, the provision of the Constitution privileging Senators from arrest, with an express exception of cases of felony. But this does not trouble the judge at all. He decides the case on the ground that he is "bound to take judicial cognizance that party organization is one thing and faction to destroy it is another," and accordingly orders that "the man be remanded to the body of which he is a member"—in other words, to the Senate, which is very much like ordering that a man be remanded to his wife and children. Extracts from the opinion hardly do its amazing character justice. It is a long, incoherent stump-speech, such as we might expect from a double-standard Congressman considerably the worse for liquor. "We have," he says, "judicial authority" for exclaiming, "in love of our written compact, 'Be thou perpetual.'" And why, he goes on, "have the English people built up what we term a permanent British government?" This question he answers by declaring that "the different antagonisms and conservatism of human nature have produced this result." Any court, he continues, must take notice of "the connection between the stability of that Empire and our Republic," because it is "a part of that record which cannot be expunged." Passing to the consideration of the Constitutional points involved, he observes that "the written Constitution is our light-house," and then asks, "Where is the grand centre around which the other provisions of the grand compact cluster?" He expresses a wish also to know whether it "would be unjudicial," or "outside a cold judicial opinion," to say in this connection: "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children." After some further balderdash of the same sort, he ordered Patterson's discharge, but seems a fit subject for judicial enquiry himself.

The Governor of Tennessee recently called the Legislature of that State together to consider a proposition made by its bondholders to "readjust" the debt at sixty cents on the dollar; but the Legislature manifesting a preference for fifty cents, and the creditors having taken alarm and made haste to say they would take fifty after all, the session was adjourned and a new one called to consider the amended offer. Meantime, a new funding association has appeared on the scene in the form of a syndicate, the objects of which are to fund any of the Southern State debts, recognized and unrecognized, holding out to the State the hope of a lower rate of interest, and to the bondholder the hope of some recognition of his claims. That is, as we understand it, the syndicate proposes in the case of any State having say \$10,000,000 outstanding bonds on which it pays interest at 7

per cent., and \$5,000,000 on which it pays nothing, to "place" a new loan of \$15,000,000 at 4 per cent., making the interest account of the State \$600,000 instead of \$700,000, and giving the holders of the \$5,000,000 bonds a certain portion of their rights. In order to secure the object in view from all danger of new repudiation in the future, it is proposed that the State shall pass a series of laws or constitutional amendments practically putting repudiation out of its power, making a levy of taxes to pay the debt compulsory, and authorizing suits against itself in case of failure. The difficulty with the scheme seems to be the great improbability of getting bondholders receiving 7 per cent. to fund their bonds at 4, in order that bondholders who receive nothing may get 4 too, and the association has not thus far gained much public confidence. Nevertheless, we see that it has had an agent negotiating with the Tennessee authorities. In Georgia, the new constitution repudiating the outstanding claims against that State has been adopted, but this probably does not depress the bondholders, who have had their claims repudiated so often that once more or less cannot make much difference.

The Pittsburgh Grand Jury astonished the public a fortnight ago, and proved the failure of the President's "policy" in Pennsylvania, by a violent presentment, in which they laid the blame of the riots and the resulting destruction of property in that city on the troops, the police, and, in fact, on all that portion of the community not actually engaged in murder and pillage, and made the rioters appear a very ill-used body of men. As an illustration of their line of reasoning, we may mention that they threw on the troops who took refuge in the round-house the blame of the burning of the freight-cars, inasmuch as taking refuge in the round-house suggested to the rioters the plan of roasting them out by sending burning cars down the track against the building; which makes Lord Thomas Fitzgerald's defence before the Council at Dublin of his burning the cathedral of Cashel, "that he thought the Archbishop was inside," seem less comic than it has hitherto been considered. We are glad to say, however, that this eccentric view of the matter by the Grand Jury, which was doubtless taken in part in order to save the county from possible pecuniary liability, does not seem to have been adopted in the courts, where many of the rioters, though probably not the worst, have been convicted and sentenced to the extreme penalty of the law.

Within the past week a new revelation has been made of the confusion and disorder which taints every branch of municipal administration in New York, in the excise trouble. A Grand Jury has formally presented the whole excise system as a nuisance, and they are evidently justified in this opinion by the facts as far as they have come out in the legal proceedings. The law provides that no liquor shall be sold without a license, and there is a Board of Commissioners charged with the duty of enforcing it. Now these commissioners are politicians, and the liquor-dealers, or at any rate a great many of them, are influential in politics. With our present political system liquor-shops are natural political headquarters, serving as places where discussions and deliberations of a "primary" nature can be carried on, candidates picked out or rejected, and so on. In consequence of this fact, or for some other reason which is not apparent, the Excise Commissioners have not been in the habit of requiring licenses, and the liquor-dealers have not been in the habit of taking them out. They have usually paid a sum of money on account, taken a receipt, and had no further trouble, except in case of an occasional raid. Whether this failure to execute the law was due to the fact that the Excise Commissioners thought it well to "have a hold" upon the dealers, but not to be too hard upon them, we do not know; but this appears to have been the custom. Now, however, the law has been suddenly put in force (the enforcement being according to some accounts brought about by a quarrel between the Police and Excise Commissioners), and hundreds of liquor-dealers arrested all over the city (the law, too, against selling on Sunday being suddenly revived), and legal proceedings begun in all the courts. Questions of law by the dozen are, of course, found



to exist, some lawyers contending that the arrests are illegal, and that the receipt of moneys paid in good faith is a valid defence; others, that good faith has nothing to do with the question; and still others, that in the present state of the law the Excise Commissioners have nothing to do with issuing licenses, but that the Mayor has this authority under the "Montgomery Charter."

Following the declarations of the President and the Secretary of the Treasury against silver remonetization as a full legal tender the price of gold fell to 102½, and the Syndicate, thinking that at last this pestilent question had been disposed of, subscribed for \$10,000,000 more 4 per cent. bonds, and the Treasury issued a call for the resumption of \$10,000,000 more 6 per cent. 5-20 bonds. Hardly had this appeared, however, when Mr. Stanley Matthews introduced his concurrent resolution declaring the legality of paying the bonds in silver. Although this resolution, even if passed by a two-thirds majority in both branches of Congress, could not have the binding force of law, yet so threatening did it seem to the public credit that the price of gold advanced to 103½. The 412½-grain silver dollar at the close of the week had a gold value of \$0.9068. In the stock market the principal event of the week has been an exposure of the Reading Company. Mr. Charles E. Smith, formerly president of the Reading Railroad, has published in advance of the annual meeting of the stockholders of that corporation a statement which brings grave charges against Mr. Gowen and the present management, which, however, Mr. Gowen treats as a stockjobbing operation, and as it has not seriously affected the market price of Reading shares, we shall postpone an examination of it until next week.

Marshal MacMahon's performances during the week have been odder than anything in his political career. At the close of last week he had an interview with Senator Duclere of the Left, and asked him what the Left wanted, and Duclere, on his own responsibility, asked for a good deal, hoping thus to lay the foundation for a compromise. This the Marshal and his friends treated as a proof of the impossibility of satisfying the Left, and there was a period of great anxiety. Then he sent for M. Dufaure, and gave him *carte blanche* to form a ministry, which it was understood, however, would be formed from the Left Centre, and such a ministry the Constitutionalists in the Senate promised to support, and all seemed to be going on swimmingly. The Cabinet was to contain such men as Léon Say, Marcère, Christophle, and Waddington: but the Republican press, while expressing full confidence in Dufaure, demanded some guarantees against unconstitutional dissolutions and the abuse of the right of proclaiming a state of siege. At this point, however, after having conceded everything, the Marshal's mind was again "poisoned," and he withdrew his *carte blanche* and insisted on having three seats in the Cabinet placed at his disposal—or, in other words, three of the present ministers retained—War, Marine, and Foreign Affairs. This broke up the negotiations, and on Saturday all was at sea again.

The likeness of his "goings on" to those of General Grant continues to be very striking. A large deputation of manufacturers waited on him to draw his attention to the serious effect the political crisis was having on the business of the country; but it made him angry, and he refused to see them and had them bowed out by an aide-de-camp. This recalls comically the deputation of Boston financiers, headed by Mr. William Gray, which waited on General Grant, in 1874, to ask him to veto the inflation bill. He rebuked them sharply for their impudence, and we believe did not tell them whether he would veto it or not. American manners, of course, did not permit of his refusing them an interview, but he probably felt about them very much as the Marshal felt about the manufacturers.

The all-overshadowing event of the week is the fall of Plevna. Carried to the extreme limit of endurance by the failure of provisions, fuel, and medicines, while his hospitals were gorged with sick and wounded, Osman Pasha, about daybreak on Monday, December 10, marched his army across the river Vid, and at 7:30 attacked the Russian Grenadier Corps holding the line of invest-

ment near the left bank, in the hope of cutting his way out by the road to Widdin. The attack was made with the energy of despair, and a portion of the Turkish troops actually penetrated the line of entrenchments and batteries, but the stubborn resistance of the grenadiers prevented the breaking through, and Russian and Rumanian reinforcements were hurried on from the adjoining positions on the right bank of the river. For five hours the Turks continued the struggle, but finally, seeing his army surrounded on all sides, and unable to re-enter Plevna, which, after some fighting, had been occupied from the east, Osman Pasha unconditionally surrendered to the Emperor, who treated him with courtesy. The whole Turkish artillery-train was captured in the immediate neighborhood of the town. The number of combatants taken was estimated by the conquerors at forty thousand. The Russo-Rumanian forces made a triumphal entry in the afternoon. In the evening Bucharest and St. Petersburg blazed with illuminations. Thus ended one of the most memorable sieges of modern times. For nearly five months Osman Pasha had held the little town, by him transformed into a formidable fortress, as a barrier against the Russian advance into the heart of Turkey; again and again repelling the assaults of the principal army of the Czar and the entire army of Rumania, and compelling a virtual standstill on the other fields of the European theatre of war, and the governing of the Russian Empire from some huts at Gorni Studen, Poradim, or Bogot. The defence was heroic, but the attempt to escape was made much too late.

Suleiman Pasha, evidently with the aim of preventing a co-operation of the Tzesarevitch's forces with those operating against Osman Pasha and Mehemet Ali, early last week set on foot a combined movement against Tirnova. Three Turkish columns advanced in converging lines in the direction of that town from Sarnasufkar, Osman Bazar, and a more southerly point. The one advancing from Sarnasufkar occupied Popkoi and marched on Verbovka, apparently unopposed; the next, after some cannonading, compelled the retreat of the Russians from Kezrova, a place situated nearly twenty miles northeast of Tirnova; while the main attack was made by the southern column, under the direction of Suleiman Pasha himself, on the troops under Gen. Mirski, covering Elena. On Tuesday, December 4, after being forced back from Mahren, southeast of Elena, the Russians fought a severe battle at the latter place, but were defeated, and retired to Yakovtzi, "at the head of a mountain gorge," on the road to Tirnova. They admitted a loss at Mahren and Elena of nearly two thousand killed and wounded and eleven guns. The Turks renewed the attack on Wednesday, but effected little; Russian reinforcements arrived at Yakovtzi under General Deltinghausen, and other troops advanced to Zlataritz, intervening between the central and southern Turkish columns. Bad weather prevented considerable operations for some days, and on the 9th a Bogot bulletin stated the situation to be "unchanged, the Russians occupying Zlataritz and Yakovtzi, and the Turks confronting them." Bad weather also checked the movements of Mehemet Ali, whose troops, after their success at Komartzi, confronted the Russians between that place and Vretchesh. The Russians in Armenia, too, are reported to be prevented by the inclemency of the season and heavy snow from investing Erzerum, though the fortifications of that city are believed to be feebly manned. The Servians, however, some days ago, were more than usually active, making warlike demonstrations looking like a real invasion of Turkish soil, in the direction of Sienitz, near the western portion of their southern frontier. This new war cloud, however, has been dissipated by the announcement that the telegraphed "crossing of the frontier" originated in a confusion of boundary lines. The Rumanians have been stopped in their advance from Lom Palanka against Widdin, and the commander of that isolated Turkish fortress is strengthening its garrison by arming the Moslem population of the district. The Egyptian contingent, as reported, is to be considerably increased. A serious attack by the Russians on Batum is anticipated.

## WHAT THE PARTY WANTS.

AMONG the causes of weakness which now affect the Republican party one of the most potent is to be found in its complete political success. It was called into existence for the purpose of preventing the further extension of slavery; it has been led on by the logic of events to the complete termination of the path on which it originally entered; and it now sees not only the acquiescence of the whole country in its policy, but the disappearance from our statute-books of every recognition of that race-antipathy the results of which it was organized to combat. In the sense in which the word was understood a few years ago, nearly all men may now be called Republicans. If the acquiescence is in many cases a reluctant one, it is nevertheless real, and, to all appearance, so permanent that if ever the question of the suffrage and political equality of the negro is reopened, it is as likely to be done under Republican as under Democratic auspices. An organization which has so completely attained the objects for which it was formed is necessarily in danger of dissolution unless some good reason for continuing it in existence can be found. There is but one way in which such a reason can be made manifest. The party must be going to do something which people want to have done, and to do it better and more certainly than any opposing party. People will not take the trouble to go to the polls themselves, and bring their neighbors thither, merely to vote for a party which has had a glorious history; but they will want some future good result in the form of legislation or administration to flow from the time and trouble they have expended. Unless there be some practical question at issue between the opposing parties, the party out of power has a great advantage merely because its members have nothing to quarrel about. Consequently, the present state of things, in which the two parties have pretty much the same platform, and each is afraid to take any decided stand upon any of the living questions of the day, is more unfavorable to the vitality of the Republican than to that of the Democratic party.

It might seem that if Mr. Hayes continues honestly and consistently to pursue the course which he marked out in his letter of acceptance and in his inaugural address, and to administer the government to the general satisfaction of a large majority of the people, he ought necessarily to achieve a great political success for his party. That the very men who are most grateful for what he has done to secure a good understanding between the various sections of the country, should use the power they have thus been enabled to acquire in voting solidly against him, seems, at first sight, so antagonistic to the fundamental principles which should govern men that we are loath to accept its possibility. But while we cannot doubt that the party which thus goes consistently forward in the path marked out by the moral sense of the nation will ultimately reap its full reward, it is vain to expect that it can thereby gain immediate absolution for all its past misdeeds. Let us look at the political questions now really under discussion, and see how far it is possible for the Republican party to join issue upon them with its opponents.

*The civil service.* The purification of the civil service is the measure to which the party is most distinctly and unequivocally committed in its platform. In the wording of the other planks we see indications of hesitation in the form of hints designed to pacify men of opposite views, while in the civil-service plank not the slightest hope is held out that traders in offices will be allowed to pursue their calling. And yet, as the case now stands, it is impossible to make a party issue on this question. The party has been in power seventeen years, so that the civil service is just what the party has made it, and it is the fault of the latter that any reform is needed. Asking to be kept in power to reform the civil service is simply asking to be kept in a trust to which it admits itself to have been unfaithful, in order that it may be faithful in future. The request is not only illogical in its very nature, but it is one on which it is impossible, under present circumstances, to make a party issue. Leaving aside the fact that one wing of the party is so bitterly opposed to reform

that a reformer voting the Republican ticket hardly knows on which side of the question he is being counted, the question itself is one on which the outs are not going to take opposing ground. Every Democrat in the land can and will shout the battle-cry of reform louder than his Republican neighbor, with the great advantage of having no record to belie his words and no opponents in his own party to dispute him. This advantage must continue until a Democratic administration is tried and found wanting, which, judging from the use this party has made of its recently-acquired power, would be the most probable result. Then if the Republicans can show that they really made an honest attempt to have the civil service represent the best intellect and morals of the country, they can claim a return to power with a force which will not be possible while the experiment of a Democratic administration is untried.

*The pacification of the South.* Admitting that to President Hayes belongs the credit of adopting a course towards the South which has led to a result desired by all reasonable men, it is still not possible to make a party issue with the Democrats on that question at the present time. The President is in the position of the commander of an army who, on taking the field, can find no enemy to fight except in his own ranks. However excellent his policy, and however certain that it will be approved by his party, it must be shown that the opposing party is going to endanger its success before its supporters can see any strong reason for preferring one party to the other on this ground. And the only way to find whether Democratic success really will endanger the continuance of good feeling between the South and the North is to give it a trial.

*The currency question.* The large majority of the Democratic party is so hopelessly committed to the inflation craze, that nearly all believers in an honest currency are ready to rally to the standard of a party which will distinctly and unequivocally oppose its inflation schemes. Here we have just what the Republicans want to prevent their party from drifting hopelessly and helplessly down the stream, namely, a live issue on which all can join, without being in doubt which side of the question they are taking. The meaningless display of generalities, the shuffling and trimming, the equal toleration of every extreme of opinion, and all the other devices by which the Republican leaders are now striving to avoid making the currency question a party one, are, apart from the merits of the question, simply pitiable as specimens of party management, because they show that those leaders have no conception of the political necessity of the situation. So long as the party is afraid to take ground on any question about which parties can divide, so long must it continue to grow weaker, with no other hope of success than the forlorn one of the blunders and folly of its opponents. With such cowardice defeat is as good as certain, while by adopting a bolder course there is a reasonable hope of immediate, and a certainty of ultimate, success.

The question may be asked, why the want of a party issue is not as bad for the Democrats as for the Republicans, and how the mere discovery of a question to fight over can redound to the advantage of one side, apart from the merits of the question. We reply that the present state of things always must tend, in the course of time, to the disadvantage of the party in power; and the longer it continues, the greater the disadvantage. Such a party is constantly on trial by a court which reverses the maxim of the common law, and holds it guilty on every indictment unless it can prove its innocence. It is steadily losing from the defection of those who want a change for the mere excitement it will bring; of those who are dissatisfied with something it has done or failed to do; and of those who think that four or five Presidential terms is enough for one party, and that the other ought now to have a chance. The outs having none of the responsibility of power, and suffering none of these defections, are certain of ultimately becoming stronger than their opponents, if they only have good sense enough to adopt a waiting policy, and avoid taking any ground which is going to prove to their disadvantage. In a country where neither party has any idea which it considers worth fighting for, power must constantly pass from one party to the other.



The blindness of the Republican leaders to what is for the ultimate advantage of the party is no less deplorable than their unconsciousness of the party necessities of the hour. We are not sure but that one of the greatest dangers the reform movement has to encounter arises from the sanguine hope of its friends that it will immediately repair the waning fortunes of the party—a hope which, for reasons we have assigned, cannot have any valid foundation. The result will be that when the defeat which now seems imminent actually arrives, the cry of “We told you so!” will be loudly heard. It is of no use to conceal the fact that the reward of righteous political management is subject to the same laws with that of right living generally; it comes very slowly, and does not allow itself to be reaped by those who do right from no higher motive than that of gaining it. The politician to whom the next Presidential election is the end of the world will as surely be disappointed by the results of reform as would a young man of business who, hearing a sermon on the duty of cautious and prudent management, should start on that line with the idea of making an immediate fortune. If the Republican party is to be the ruling one of the country, it must begin by regaining that character which it has lost by the shortcomings of the Grant Administration, and must not forget that character is a plant of very slow growth, as the Democrats have found to their sorrow. It must distinguish itself from its opponents by showing that it has some principles which it values higher than success, and must prove itself a proper representative of the intelligence of the country by not being afraid to read bad men out of its ranks just because they are bad. Then, even if it meets defeat, it will have a base to fall back upon which will ensure ultimate success.

#### THE TERMS OF PEACE.

THE fall of Plevna means not simply the loss of 50,000 at least of the Sultan's best troops, but the addition of 120,000 to the Russian force available for an attempt to overwhelm Suleiman and Mehemet Ali and force the Balkans. In Asia, Mukhtar Pasha is shut up in Erzerum, and can hardly hope for relief from Trebizond even if his communications with the sea are not already cut; and the fall of Batum seems to be impending. Upon this state of facts an expectation of the near approach of peace has been rapidly springing up in Europe, and the discussion of the terms of peace has suddenly passed from the speculative to the practical stage, and is producing considerable, but one must admit well-deserved, perturbation in English opinion, and is bringing out the defects in recent English policy on the Turkish problem in very striking relief. To appreciate the gravity of the present crisis one has to go back a little.

The theory of the pro-Turkish party in England, which includes the bulk of the Conservatives and all “the best society,” that the internal troubles in Turkey which brought on the present war were due, not to Turkish misgovernment, but to Russian intrigues, was made untenable from the beginning by the concurrence of Austria, Germany, and Russia in the Berlin Memorandum, which pointed out abuses which would of themselves have justified insurrection anywhere, and called on the Porte to rectify them in the interest of humanity and European peace. England refused to adhere to this Memorandum, not because she denied the facts but because she had no faith in the remedy. But she abandoned even this ground by going into the Constantinople Conference and urging on the Turks, in conjunction with the Great Powers, the creation of Bulgaria into a quasi-independent province, and the submission of the whole empire to a tolerably rigid system of European inspection. This was an admission of the strongest kind of three things—first, that there were crying evils in Turkish administration of which the Christians were victims; secondly, that the Turks if left to themselves would not institute the needed reforms; and, thirdly, that Turkey was not an independent and sovereign state in the sense in which that term is applied to other European Powers. The result to which the proceedings of the Conference clearly pointed was the application by the combined Powers of as much force as might be necessary to compel

Turkey to submit to the programme of the Conference. That the mere threat of such application would have been sufficient to bring the Turks to terms no one doubts. All of the Powers except Russia refused to resort to it, simply on grounds of expediency. Russia undertook it alone, partly, no doubt, in pursuance of a traditional policy as against Turkey, but mainly because the Russian people were more excited about the griefs of the Turkish Christians than the people of any other country. Austria and Germany then took a perfectly rational view of the situation. Either of them might have stopped Russia by a single word, because in invading Turkey she exposes her flank to them both; but they assented, saying simply: “You have undertaken a tough job; we wish you joy of it; we shall not join you in it, but we are estopped by our own recent acts and declarations from interfering with or impeding you.”

In England the news of the declaration of war produced an effect which would appear very singular if it were unprecedented. But it has been one of the peculiarities of English opinion for the last sixty years to sympathize strongly with oppressed peoples as long as they make no efforts to throw off the yoke, or have little chance of doing so, and to discountenance them sternly if they give any practical expression to their discontent, either by insurrection or invoking or accepting foreign aid. The cause of Greece had a good deal of sentimental encouragement in England while it seemed hopeless; its final, and one might say accidental, triumph by the battle of Navarino was deplored in the king's speech as “an untoward event,” and converted Philhellenism very distinctly into Russophobia. The early success of the Hungarian insurrection of 1849 made the Hungarian cause odious or disreputable in English drawing-rooms, and the *Times* used to teem with articles in ridicule or depreciation of the Magyars. The Italian cause also drew English tears freely until 1859, when Cavour's masterstroke, the French alliance, first gave Italian independence an air of near reality, and converted English sympathy into fear or suspicion of France, very much like that which Russia is now calling forth. There is something pitiful in a passage in Mary Somerville's letters, written in Italy in 1859, in which she expresses the fear which English Liberals in that country felt at that time that England might be drawn into the war on the side of Austria. The history of English opinion during the American Civil War in 1861-5 is too recent or familiar to need recalling, but it ran through the usual phases, and is most interesting just now as a parallel to its course on the Russian war. It divided English society on almost exactly the same lines. We think the following is a strictly accurate description of it:

#### Russia, 1877.

War not due to sympathy for Christians, but desire of aggrandizement. Discontent of Christians due to Russian intrigues. Turks the true protectors of the Christian. Russian peasants might well envy Bulgarian peasants. Turk a gentleman.

#### After first assault on Plevna.

Russia entering on a contest to which she is clearly unequal. Horrible bloodshed. Valor of the Turk shows that stories about Christian oppression are all lies. Probable retreat of the Russians across Danube. Bridges to be broken under pitiless Turkish fire. Awful loss of life.

#### December, 1877.

This dreadful war has lasted six months without decisive result. Turks are not conquered or likely to be; horrible barbarities on both sides. “Ever and again one is driven to exclaim, ‘Is this to go on; will no one stop the useless course

#### United States, 1861-5.

War not about slavery at all; real cause a protective tariff for Northern manufactures and love of power. Slave-owners only effective friends of the black man. Negroes happier than Northern laborers. Planter a gentleman.

#### After Bull Run.

North entered on a mad enterprise; Bull Run what might have been expected. South cannot be conquered. Horrible bloodshed. Valor of Southerners shows that slavery is not such a bad thing after all. When will the eyes of the North be opened? Probable invasion of the North by Southerners. New York and Philadelphia put to ransom. Universal madness in the Free States.

#### December, 1862.

This deplorable war has now lasted nearly two years. Tens of thousands have fallen by fratricidal hands, and we are no nearer the end than ever. Can this carnage not be stopped? It was easy to see why the North did not make peace after its shameful

of devastation and bloodshed?" repulse at Bull Run: but now that its troops have shown themselves no unworthy foes of the Southerners it will surely abandon its hopeless enterprise, so full of cruelty for the negro and so disastrous to the white population on both sides.

The parallel might be pushed further, for Russia was in the beginning very anxious to conciliate England and hold her good opinion, and was amenable to English influence. The subsequent taunts and defiance, combined with the growing certainty of English non-intervention and of final success in the field, have bred an irritated indifference to what England thinks, and probably a desire to make a settlement in which she shall have no hand. At this moment there is a sort of panic in England lest the three emperors should close the Eastern question themselves, leaving England to mourn over Russian barbarities and the folly and ingratitude of "those rebels," as *Blackwood's Magazine* calls the Montenegrins and Herzegovinians, whom it assures that when the settlement comes "the Powers of Europe will not concern themselves about them." "They have been recklessly heaping up wrath for themselves against the day of wrath," says this pleasant-spoken organ, "and nobody can pity them when that day comes." It is hardly likely that Austria and Germany will consent, however, to any such process of exclusion, or that England would submit to have the Dardanelles or the Turkish fleet disposed of without her advice and consent; but there is hardly any settlement possible now which will not leave English influence in the Levant lower than it has been since the beginning of the century, and will not leave Russia with a hold on the imagination of the rising races of European Turkey such as she did not dare to hope for before the war broke out.

It is evident, too, that the early Russian reverses, which caused so much chuckling in English society, were, as we ventured to point out at the time, a great misfortune for the Turks. The repulses at Plevna and in Asia were, however glorious for a Power of which people had such a mean opinion as they had of Turkey, mere flea-bites to a Power whose resources were undeniably so great as those of Russia. They acted merely as an irritant, and lured the Turks into a false confidence which began to show itself at Constantinople in insolent defiance of the whole of Europe. They caused Russia to display her whole strength promptly, which she evidently had not done at the outset of the war, and they led Osman Pasha to stick fast close to the Russian base, where he could be surrounded and cooped up, thus relieving them of the greater part of their chief difficulty—the difficulty of transportation. They led Mukhtar Pasha, too, to stand his ground with a small force close to Alexandropol, so that the Russians were able to attack and overwhelm him, within a day's march of their own frontier, thus again escaping the chief difficulty of warfare in Armenia—that of keeping up a long line of communication through a desolate and mountainous country. And now, when the end comes, and Turkey can raise no more armies and has to ask for terms, the very toughness of her resistance will give her adversary an argument which the great military Powers will find irresistible for exacting a crushing indemnity for the war; and as Turkey cannot pay in money she will probably have to pay in everything else. Not only is she likely to have to cede to the Montenegrins the territory they have conquered, and to the Herzegovinians and Bulgarians some sort of semi-independence, but to have to cede to Russia territory in Asia, and perhaps the fleet, or a part of it, and the free passage of the Dardanelles for ships-of-war. Austria and Germany can find their compensation and their guarantees in all these things, but it is hard to say what advantage England can extract from them, unless she seizes Egypt. But the seizure of Egypt will, under the circumstances, hardly make up for the loss of influence at Constantinople, which her own attitude has prepared, and which Russian successes seem likely to make irreparable and permanent.

#### THE PRACTICAL WORKING OF THE SILVER BILL.

THE silver bill, as originally introduced in Congress, and as subsequently proposed to be amended, suggests the following considerations:

*First.* As regards the original bill:

1. The Government cannot call in greenbacks as the German Government has called in silver, for conversion. The German Government called in coin of intrinsic value and paid out coin of intrinsic value, getting an equivalent in kind; the greenbacks have no intrinsic value, and are only promises to pay. The only way to call them in is to pay them.

2. Consequently, the only means the Government has of obtaining silver for coinage is in exchange for the greenbacks and gold in its own coffers.

3. This transaction can only be repeated as further amounts of greenbacks and gold are paid into the Treasury, and must, therefore, be limited.

4. Gold will still be required by States, cities, and railroad companies whose bonds and interest are payable in gold, and by merchants who wish to keep their merchandise on a gold basis—that is to say, on a par with other countries.

5. There will, therefore, be approximately the same amount of gold required in the country as heretofore.

6. Silver will, therefore, have to be added side by side with gold, each performing a different function, two supplies being required instead of one. For example, the merchant will have to have a supply of gold to keep his merchandise on a par with the rest of the world, and a separate supply of silver to pay his duties.

7. Silver being by law legal tender, greenbacks must at once fall to the same discount, as regards gold, that silver is at. They have no superior intrinsic value, and the law will give them none. Eventually they must tend to fall lower than silver.

8. The supply of silver will have to be obtained from two sources—the home supply from the production of our own mines, and the foreign supply by foreign importations. The silver from our mines being now wholly exported, an equal value of gold must leave the country to take the place of that retained here, while that which is imported from abroad must also be paid for in gold.

9. This gold drawn from our limited supply, which is needed for the purposes above named, must put up the price of gold at least as fast as the increased demand for silver advances the price of silver.

10. The greenbacks having no legal value superior to that of silver will be governed by the fluctuations of silver, as far as a maximum value is concerned, but they must tend eventually to fall below the value of silver as fast as distrust increases, silver having an intrinsic value which greenbacks have not. The process would be exactly the same as that through which the relations of greenbacks and gold passed when greenbacks were first introduced.

11. We should then find ourselves with two currencies: greenbacks, the poorest, and silver, the best—both fluctuating as regards foreign countries, and therefore unavailable as a representative of fixed value. Gold would have become an article of merchandise, having no relation to the currency but the nominal one given by statute.

12. Silver and gold would be governed in their relative prices by those prevailing in the rest of the world, while greenbacks would fluctuate as the credit and circumstances of the country varied. In other words, gold and silver would, as it is called, rise and fall, as compared with greenbacks, in a comparatively fixed ratio to each other, and silver would eventually disappear from circulation as gold has done, leaving only greenbacks in circulation.

13. To provide the silver needed for the coinage of silver dollars for the payment of interest in silver and for the supply which will be required by merchants to pay customs dues, the Government would have no resource but to buy silver with its own gold and greenbacks; and if more were required, resort to borrowing for the purpose by the issue of bonds.

14. All the bonds of the United States now out would fall in value the difference between gold and silver, as soon as the payment of their interest in silver became imperative by law. Consequently, all new issues of bonds would have to be made at a rate of interest one per cent. higher than the relative bonds now; and all bonds issued for funding must follow the same rule. In other words, if the public debt could be funded at 4 per cent. in gold, it could not be funded at better than 5 per cent. in silver.

*Second.* In case, as proposed in the amendment to the bill, the applica-



tion of the law should except the payment of the interest on the public debt, and the payment of duties, from the use of silver, and limit the legal-tender quality of silver to fifty dollars, the following exceptional results might be expected :

1. Silver not being payable for customs, the Government would receive no silver from that source, and would have to buy all it coined. It could not buy more than the amount of its annual surplus, which probably would not exceed two million dollars a month, or twenty-four million dollars a year.

2. This amount of silver is not larger than that invested in fractional currency, and would not probably affect the relative price of silver to gold more than that purchase did.

3. Nor would it at first be of sufficient importance to affect the relations of greenbacks to gold. Its limitation as a legal tender to fifty dollars would make it simply so much added to the fractional currency.

4. Consequently, the clause making silver a legal tender up to fifty dollars would have the effect that all sums below fifty dollars would be paid in silver, which would remain at a discount as compared with greenbacks.

5. This would include all payments to the Post-Office departments.

6. But the Government would have to make nearly all its payments in greenbacks, being for amounts over fifty dollars.

7. Consequently, the whole currency balance of the Government would shortly become, as far as the supply of silver in the country allowed, replaced by silver; the Government would then have to buy greenbacks with its silver to make its payments in legal form, while the public would simultaneously buy the silver to pay it back to the Government, through the Post-Office, etc.

8. The receipts of the Post-Office and similar departments would be reduced by the difference between greenbacks and silver.

9. All retail dealers would have to buy for gold or currency, and, as a rule, must sell for silver. All wages paid by the month would be paid in silver, and all supplies of the poor would have to be bought with silver, and consequently both wages and supplies would rise. Two prices would then begin to prevail—one for greenbacks and one for silver—till in the end silver and greenbacks would be forced into an artificial proximity, putting the price of silver here out of conformity with that in the rest of the world. This would cause the importation of more silver, and force gold out of the country to restore the balance, and we should find ourselves, by the action and reaction of this process, with the most fluctuating and disastrous currency in the world—vastly worse than we have now.

The whole silver movement is in principle an effort to "protect" silver, by putting it to artificial uses and surrounding it with artificial privileges inconsistent with its natural level of value throughout the rest of the world. It would be disastrous to the extent that it would not be protecting an article which the public could go without, but one which would be made a forced measure of all values in this country, without performing the same function in any other. In fact, we should have simultaneously three measures of values, two of them fluctuating (one wholly of credit, one one-tenth credit, and one wholly intrinsic); a state of things which would defeat all calculations of merchants, bankers, producers, consumers, and distributors, and bring us to a nearer approach to absolute barter than has been seen in modern times, reducing us to a more than colonial subjection to other countries, and making us the object of unceasing combinations on the part of the rest of the world.

The difficulties of the position, should we introduce the element of silver into our currency at the valuation proposed—thus making three legal tenders of different values and put to different uses—are comparatively easy to be stated; but how we should be able to undo the evil which would be the result, and which would have to be undone if any intercourse between man and man were to continue, is a problem of a different character. That resumption would be impossible while such a condition of affairs existed would be the least of them.

#### AN OLD FRENCH FAMILY.

PARIS, November 16, 1877.

I CAN hardly imagine anything more interesting than the history of a family continued through a great number of generations. But few families have records which cover a number of centuries; there are but few where the direct thread of descent is not cut short by death. There are, however, singular exceptions. I am myself working at the present moment at the life of the great Protestant general, the Duke Henri de

Rohan, and I have ascertained that he was the thirteenth eldest son in a family in which the eldest sons had never died without leaving sons. The minor branches had disappeared; the eldest branch was sound, and remained so for ages. But there is a more curious instance of this phenomenon, which is not only interesting from a historical but also from a physiological point of view. I know a young boy who now goes under the name of the Prince de Tarente, and who will at his father's death be called Duc de la Trémoille. This lad is the seventeenth La Trémoille born from an oldest son. His father, the present duke, is the sixteenth. The house of La Trémoille is therefore one of the most interesting that can be found; its descent can be traced by authentic documents as far back as the tenth century. It takes its origin from the estate of La Trémoille, part of the domain of the first Counts of Poitou. Peter, the first who bore the name of La Trémoille, sprung from William, Count of Poitou (it was in the tenth century that the cadets began to assume the name of their special *apanage*). A certain Guy, called a "valorous warrior" in a document preserved at St.-Remi at Reims, in the year 1098, accompanied Godfrey de Bouillon to the Holy Land in 1096.

There are various documents concerning the La Trémouilles who lived in the eleventh and twelfth and thirteenth centuries. An act of the Parliament of Paris shows that Guy V., son of Guy IV., was named by our King John chief baker of France (*grand panetier*). The present duke has published a magnificent work, which begins with Guy VI., the eldest son of this chief baker. This book, edited at great cost, cannot have a large circulation; only two hundred copies of it have been printed. It is not, properly speaking, an historical work; it is a succession of historical documents, printed in chronological order.

These documents, belonging to the Trémoille family, were kept in the various châteaux which it possessed. Of these collections (we call such collections of family documents *chartiers*) one only has been preserved, the *chartrier* of Thouars (the La Trémouilles sat in Parliament as Dukes of Thouars). At various times during the war of the Vendée, Thouars was on the point of being burnt. The iron door which protected the archives was pierced with balls, but the door resisted the attacks of the soldiery. After the war the archives were in still greater danger. The La Trémouilles of the time thought little of them, and the women of Thouars found that there was no better cover for pots of condiments than good old vellum; they were allowed for years to help themselves for this purpose in the *chartrier*. The mice did their work in peace. Much, therefore, was lost in the precious dépôt of Thouars, but enough remains to furnish a great field of research to the historian.

Thouars was confiscated in 1793, with all the estates of the La Trémouilles, who had followed the fortunes of royalty and rebelled against the Convention. The *chartrier* became municipal property. The present duke only took possession of his family papers twenty years ago. M. Paul Marchegay, the Archivist of the Department of Maine-et-Loire, examined them first, in order to find, if possible, letters of Madame de Sévigné and of the Prince de Tarente. In his double capacity of Vendéen and of Protestant, M. Marchegay, who is very learned, discovered the great importance of the La Trémoille archives. The duke, who had hitherto only been a man of the world, himself took much interest in his own family treasures; he began to study history in its most minute details. M. Marchegay, who was, so to speak, his professor and his guide, introduced order into the immense chaos of Thouars. Thousands of letters and documents were classified; some have been published, on distinguished personages, chiefly of the time of our wars of religion.

But the real work which is now before us is more especially the work of the duke himself; it is a monument erected by him to his ancestors. The plan of the work is very simple. Each successive member of the family has his biography, which is followed by the text of the most important original documents that bear upon him or concern him directly. Guy VI. de La Trémoille was employed by Charles VI. in all his wars; he received from the hands of his king, in the basilica of St.-Denis, the oriflamme which he bore against the English. He was offered the sword of Constable in 1397, after Clisson had fallen from the king's favor, but he refused it. He became a great favorite of Philip the Bold of Burgundy. He was a type of the feudal knight, and was hired for his good service not only by the King of France but by the Count of Savoy, by Galeas Visconti, by the Duke of Milan, by Clement VII., by the Queen of Naples, by the Duchess of Brabant. He fought in a famous tournament against Peter de Courtenay, who came on purpose from England to meet him, under the eyes of Charles VI. He followed John, Count of Nevers, against Bajazet, and was made prisoner at the disastrous battle of Nicopolis in 1396. An enormous ransom was paid for him; he was on

his way back to France when he fell ill at Rhodes, where he died, and was buried in the Church of St. John. This Guy VI. had married Marie de Foix, who possessed in her own right sixteen counties or baronies. At Guy's death she married Charles d'Albret, one of the ancestors of Jeanne d'Albret, the mother of Henry IV. In this way there is a distant connection between the two families of La Trémoille and of Bourbon.

The son of Guy VI., George, became prime minister of Charles VII. He had many adversaries in the great nobility of France, and among others the Constable Richmont, who made him prisoner by surprise at Châlon, threw him in prison at Montferrand, and only released him for a very heavy ransom. The anger of La Trémoille was such that he became with the Dauphin one of the leaders of the famous movement called *Le Praguerie*. Among the original documents which concern him we find many receipts of money advanced to the king during the wars with the English.

We have nothing to say of Louis I., Prince de La Trémoille, but his son, Louis II., had a very eventful life. He was one of the most loyal supporters of four kings—viz., Louis XI., Charles VIII., Louis XII., and Francis I. His contemporaries called him "the knight without reproach, the honor of his time and the glory of his house." His great feat was the victory of Saint-Aubin-du-Cormier. He fought valiantly at Fornoue, Agnadol, and Marignan. When the Duke of Orleans became king, under the name of Louis XII., he gave him command of the army of Italy, with which he conquered all Lombardy and made Lodovico Sforza, the Duke of Milan, a prisoner. Finally, he died on the battle-field of Pavia, under the eyes of his king. His first wife was a princess of Bourbon, of the Montpensier branch; his second was Louisa Borgia, the daughter of Caesar Borgia, Duke of Urbino. A few years before his death he had become the tutor of the Tuscan princess Catherine de' Medici, who became afterwards Queen of France.

At the battle of Pavia, the son of Louis II., who fought by his side, was made prisoner. He paid a ransom of 9,000 écus in gold, and on his return became governor of Poitou. In that capacity he received Charles V. of Spain, when the great emperor traversed France on his way to Ghent. Louis III. became, like his father, governor of Poitou, and took a constant part in the wars of religion between 1551 and 1576. It was during his lifetime that the viscounty of Thouars was made a duchy. The Duchy of Thouars is now the first in France possessed by the direct descendants of the first duke, which gave to the head of this family precedence at court over all the other dukes. This duchy had the singular privilege of being susceptible of transmission in the female line, in the absence of any male descendants. Though the title of Duke of Thouars is the oldest, as a title, the Dukes of Thouars were only second in the French Parlement as peers; the first peerage was that of Uzès.

The son of Louis III., Claude de la Trémoille, was the first of his family to embrace the destinies of Calvin. He was one of the faithful companions of the King of Navarre. He fought at Contras, at Ivry, and took part in the sieges of Paris, of Rouen, of Poitiers; in the last campaign of Henri IV. he raised on his own estates, and supported himself, a troop of five hundred gentlemen and two thousand infantry. He married in 1598 Charlotte Brabantine of Nassau, one of the daughters of the famous William the Silent, Prince of Orange. This marriage brought him in close connection with the famous Duc de Bouillon, and he lived, as it were, all his lifetime under the influence of the clever and subtle Prince Sovereign of Sedan. After the death of Henri IV. he followed Bouillon's fortunes during the troubled times of the minority of Louis XIII. Fortune turned against the Protestant cause after the death of the glorious Béarnais, and the son of Claude, Henri de la Trémoille, abjured the Protestant religion before the walls of Saint-Jean-d'Angély, while this city was being besieged by Louis XIII., and defended by Soubise, the brother of Henri de Rohan. Louis XIII. made him *maréchal de camp* of the light cavalry of France, and during the campaign against Piedmont, La Trémoille took the pass called the Pas de Suse.

The La Trémoilles sank with the other great families of France from the rank of feudal noblemen, able to measure their loyalty, to the rank of courtiers during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Their dignity was still very great, and they had the right to preside alternatively with the Rohans over the estates of Brittany. But the heroic age of the French nobility was past; the central power had left no independence to the ducal families, and the heroic spirit of the time of the wars of religion was gone. It would be very interesting to trace the La Trémoilles through the terrible revolutionary period. Their very name was almost forgotten; their estates were sold. Still there is something almost in-

vincible in a name. The present Duc de la Trémoille is again in possession of Thouars, and is devoted to historical studies; but if one of his descendants chooses to enter into the political arena, we see no reason why a generous and conservative republic should not give him the highest honors of the state.

## Correspondence.

### PAUPERISM AND THE SUFFRAGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: The relations between pauperism and the suffrage may be theorized upon without end, but legislation must touch the subject with a careful hand, for practical reasons which every person of legislative experience will appreciate. The principal difficulty with us in Massachusetts lies in the fact that the Constitution withholds the right of suffrage from "paupers" merely, without limitation or qualification. No judicial interpretation can be necessary to teach a person of ordinary intelligence that a "pauper" is a person who is receiving public aid, or subsisting, wholly, or in part, upon aid hitherto received—not one who has received it at some indefinite time in the past, or is liable to need it in the future. The pauperism which disqualifies one to-day cannot operate forward to disqualify him after its termination, any more than alienage or minority. Nor can any person or tribunal presume that the pauper of to-day will be a pauper next month, or next year; nor would it be just or safe to authorize such a presumption, pauperism being rather of the class of disabilities which the law never presumes, but requires to be proved. But if judicial interpretation is necessary, we have it in the *Opinion of the Justices*, 11 Pick. 537, given with reference to the question involved in this discussion, namely, the right of suffrage. It was for these reasons chiefly, I think, that the "lawyers not demagogues" of our last Legislature found themselves unable to give the Cambridge gentlemen what they desired.

Now, allow me three suggestions, to make which was the main purpose of this communication: 1. The difficulty with which the Cambridge people have to contend is not pauperism but *fraud*. 2. The reform, if any, must begin with the Constitution, by making it fix a time within which the receipt of aid shall disqualify. 3. An enlightened public sentiment must go before it.

A. E. P.

Boston, Dec. 3, 1877.

## Notes.

HACHETTE & CO., of Paris, intend to publish some time within the next ten years a French and English dictionary on a very large scale. Persons interested in the subject will confer a favor by noting down French words and phrases not found in the dictionaries now in use, (if possible, Littré, Sachs's 'Dictionnaire Encyclopédique,' or Hamilton-Legros should be consulted), and communicating them to Mr. William Cook, Cambridge, Mass., the American editor. Notes upon words used in America and not in England and vice versa, and words not in Webster, upon slang and upon local words and new words, will also be welcome.—Little, Brown & Co. have in press a collection of original papers relating to early New England Federalism and Secession, with notes by Prof. Henry Adams.—The Comte de Gobineau's admirable 'Nouvelles Asiatiques' is to be the next volume of Appleton's 'Collection of Foreign Authors,' under the title, 'Romances of the East.'—The Electoral System of the United States, by D. A. McKnight, is announced by J. B. Lippincott & Co.—Maemillan & Co. have undertaken the publication of a new quarterly journal of neurological science, called *Brain*. It will be conducted by Drs. Bucknill, Crichton Browne, Ferrier, and Hughlings Jackson.—Pending our own review of Baron von Richthofen's magnificent work on China, of which the first volume has been for some time in hand, we commend the article on "The Chinese Loess Puzzle," by Prof. J. D. Whitney, in the *American Naturalist* for December. The same number announces that this magazine, heretofore published by Hurd & Houghton, will hereafter be published by McCalla & Staveland, Philadelphia, and be edited by A. S. Packard, jr., and Prof. E. D. Cope, with the assistance of eminent men of science. This transfer is another sign of the times.—The *Literary World* for December 1 contains a number of poetical and other tributes to the poet Whittier in honor of his completing his seventieth year on the 17th instant. Longfellow, Holmes,



Bayard Taylor, and Stedman, are among the Northern tribute-bearers in verse; and Paul H. Hayne the only Southern.—The American Philological Society (not to be confounded with the *Association* that has the better right to the name) holds its annual meeting at the Cooper Institute December 19. "The Present Aspect of the Spelling Reform" will form the subject of a paper by the Rev. D. P. Lindsley.—The English appear to be in earnest about the Index Society. It is already founded and organized, with the declared objects "of preparing (a) indexes of standard indexless books, (b) subject indexes of science and literature, (c) a general MS. index formed from the other two." Mr. Henry B. Wheatley, 5 Minford Gardens, West Kensington, is the Secretary. Subscription, one guinea. It is to be hoped that it is not intended to leave the work of the society in manuscript.—The inefficiency of many of the German consuls, and above all the necessity of appointing foreigners to many of these posts, has led the German Minister of Foreign Affairs to propose the establishment of a consular academy. It will be open to students who have received a university education, or have passed the requisite examination, or have acquired a practical knowledge of foreign countries. A very similar method of educating consuls is followed in Spain, if we are not mistaken, and is worthy of imitation by every civilized nation.

—In the December number of *Harper's Magazine* is an article entitled "The Cosmogony of 'Paradise Lost,'" which explains very clearly many of the difficulties in the way of understanding that great poem. It is, however, much to be regretted that the writer of the article, although he speaks of copying one of the diagrams from the *Sphæra* of Johannes à Sacrobosco, did not also mention his authority for every statement in the article, which is a most complete plagiarism from Professor Masson's Introduction to the Globe Edition of the Poetical Works of John Milton, lately published by Macmillan & Co., or from the two-volume edition of 1874. A few quotations will make this clear:

*Harper's Magazine*, p. 137:  
"Originally, before the creation of the earth or the starry universe which we now see about us, universal space is conceived by the poet, not as containing stars or starry systems, but as a sphere of infinite radius—if such a thing were conceivable—divided into two hemispheres thus: [Here follows diagram identical with that in *Globe Ed.*] . . . Chaos is an infinite ocean or quagmire of universal darkness. It is not to be considered as mere empty space, but an abyss wherein are jumbled together in confusion the elements of all matter."

Introduction to 'Paradise Lost,' *Globe Ed.*, p. 19:

"Aboriginally, or in primeval eternity, before the creation of our earth or the starry universe to which it belongs, universal space is to be considered, according to the requisites of the poem, not as containing stars or starry systems at all, but as, so to say, a sphere of infinite radius, divided equatorially into two hemispheres, thus—[Diagram] . . . (p. 20). For it is chaos, or the uninhabited—a huge, limitless ocean, abyss, or quagmire of universal darkness and lifelessness, wherein are jumbled in blustering confusion the elements of all matter, or rather the crude embryos of all the elements, ere as yet they are distinguishable."

It will be noticed that in this last passage the writer who helped himself out of Mr. Masson's book has smoothed the Scotch professor's somewhat rugged style; but generally he is content with something more like the mechanical process of copying. For instance:

*Harper's Magazine*, p. 139:  
"The fiend, attracted by the light from the heavenly staircase by which the angels ascend and descend from the universe to the gate of Heaven, finds his way to the opening at the zenith. Sometimes these stairs are drawn upward, but when Satan reached the place they are let down. Standing on the lower rung or stair, he gazes through the opening underneath down into the universe. He sees it both from pole to pole and also longitudinally—"

"... from eastern point  
Of Libra to the fleecy star that bears  
Andromeda far off Atlantic seas  
Beyond the horizon."

Introduction, p. 24:

"Accordingly . . . the Fiend is attracted in the right direction to the opening at the zenith. What attracts him thither is a gleam of light from the mysterious structure or staircase (iii. 501 *et seq.*) which then serves the Angels in their descent from Heaven's gate into the human universe, and again in their ascents from the universe to Heaven's gate. Sometimes these stairs are drawn up to Heaven and invisible; but at the moment when Satan reached the spot they were let down, so that, standing on the lower stair, and gazing down through the opening right underneath, he could suddenly behold the whole interior of the starry universe at once. He can behold it in all directions—both in the direction of latitude, or depth from the pole where he stands, to the opposite pole or nadir; and also longitudinally."

[Here follows the same quotation from 'Paradise Lost.']

There is no need of giving further extracts; the whole article in the *Magazine* is "lifted" directly and without a word of acknowledgment from Professor Masson's painstaking Introduction. The only passage with any claim to originality is one in which attention is called to "one of the humors" of the poem. This writer need not fear plagiarism.

—Now that Kellogg and Butler have got their seats in the Senate, it is time for the historian of Reconstruction to begin gathering his materials. The latest contribution to the subject is ex-Secretary Welles's article on the "Administration of Abraham Lincoln" in the December *Galaxy*. Mr. Welles's motive, besides the narrative of events, is twofold—viz., to expose the selfish intrigues of Mr. Chase for the Presidency while yet a member of the Cabinet, and to defend Mr. Lincoln's assumption of the initiative in reconstruction against the view of the power of Congress in the premises which was so bitterly urged by Thaddeus Stevens, Winter Davis, and B. F. Wade. As regards the latter undertaking, he accomplishes no more, it seems to us, than to make clear the knottiness of a problem over which Congress and Mr. Lincoln were divided. Mr. Lincoln's part in reconstructing Louisiana and Arkansas, whether wise (abstractly considered) or legal, undoubtedly hindered the revival of self-government and loyalty at the South; and many will think that it erred both in permitting the color distinction to survive the abolition of slavery in the State laws regulating the suffrage, and in allowing too small a body of electors to constitute itself the new State. Congress corrected one of these errors but confirmed the other, which it might have done even without Mr. Lincoln's example. His mistakes were rendered irremediable by his death; Congress's by the temper of his successor. Louisiana, the first of the rebel States to be taken in hand and the last to be pacified, is perhaps a monument to the unwisdom both of the amnesty proclamation of December 8, 1863, and of the subsequent reconstruction legislation. The excuse of necessity which Congress can plead before history may outweigh that of duty which Lincoln might have alleged. As for the Constitutional issue, while its importance cannot be judged by the infrequency with which it is likely to arise, the President would probably at least have been forgiven had he led off with a plan agreeable to the wishes of Congress. Since he did not, he was accused of encroaching on the prerogative of Congress by his simple veto of the Winter Davis reconstruction act of 1864. Who knows in how many days we shall be hearing, on occasion of the veto of the Silver Bill, that President Hayes "must confine himself to his executive duties," must "obey and execute, not make, the laws"?

—Last May (No. 621 of the *Nation*) we gave in these Notes an abstract of a correspondence between Mr. Francis P. Knight, Chinese Commissioner at the Philadelphia Exposition, and President Eliot, of Harvard, on the utility of collegiate instruction in Chinese. The substance of Mr. Knight's message was, that China offers a career for a small, perhaps, yet indefinite and increasing number of Americans qualified to speak and write the language, in the customs-service, in the consular service, in civil and mining engineering and railway management, as well as in the courts; and he offered, if the expenses could be defrayed, to bring out to this country competent teachers, under whom in two years young men could fit themselves to be useful in the East in some degree. President Eliot gave his cordial approval to the scheme, and promised the assistance of the Corporation. We are able to state that the necessary funds have been raised, and that Mr. Knight returned last week to China with the expectation that by the opening of the fall term of 1878 instruction could be begun at Harvard in the manner indicated. Meantime, as our readers are aware, a Chinese professorship has been founded at Yale, and filled by the appointment of Dr. S. Wells Williams.

—Just when the London season was breaking up, and the Houses of Parliament were wistfully looking for their holidays on the grouse-moors, their yacht races, trips to the Continental spas, and the like, an ardent body of ladies and gentlemen of surplus energy were meeting at Birmingham, England, in a congress on "Domestic Economy." The London Society of Arts had issued, four months previously, a notice of "a congress annually to promote the knowledge of domestic economy as defined by the Education Code," and, on the evening of the 17th July, the congress was opened by a *conversazione*, at which some 600 persons were present, at the rooms of the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists. Oddly enough the reporter feels bound to add: "Better ventilation only was wanted for the enjoyment of a crowded audience"; so at the very beginning these wise people were not able to practise what they were so prone to preach. There was nothing noteworthy in the introductory conversation unless it was the familiar remark of Professor Huxley that, "if any

one is interested in the laws of health it is the poor workman, whose strength is wasted by ill-prepared food, whose health is sapped by bad ventilation and bad drainage, and half whose children are massacred by disorders which might be prevented." The sections of the Congress met on the 18th and 19th July. The following was the order of the proceedings:

"Wednesday, July 18th, *Morning sitting*, 10:30 to 1:30. Section A.—(1) Needlework—Clothing and its Materials, 10:30 to 11:25; (2) Cleanliness—Washing, 11:25 to 12:30. Section B.—(1) Health, 12:30 to 1:30. *Afternoon sitting*, 2 to 5. Section C.—(1) Methods of teaching Domestic Economy—Text-books, 2 to 3:10; (2) Inspection—Government grant—Female Inspectors—Working of the Society of Arts Examinations, 3:10 to 4:10; (3) Thrift—Savings-Banks, 4:10 to 5.

"Thursday, July 19th, *Morning sitting*, 10:30 to 1:30. Section B (continued).—(1) Sickness—10:30 to 12; (2) The Dwelling—Warming and Ventilation, 12 to 1:30. *Afternoon sitting*, 2 to 5:30. Section A (continued).—Food and Cookery."

The subjects were discussed in the order laid down in the programme. Each speech was limited to ten minutes on each separate head specified in the programme. The papers, which were, as far as practicable, printed and distributed in the room, were not (except under special circumstances, at the discretion of the chairman) read, but each writer of a paper was allowed five minutes for stating the substance of it in addition to any speech. In contemplating all which, and in looking through the Congress's printed report of 199 pages or so, closely printed, it cannot but occur to any one that Sterne's chapter on "Hobby-horses" is a profound and exact commentary, just as true nowadays as when it first saw the light.

—We mentioned last week the sale of the late Ambroise Firmin-Didot's precious collection of engravings. *Polybiblion* announces in the November number the sale in April next of the first part of his library, which will certainly bring a higher total, as it is doubtful whether any private collection of books in all France is equal to it. Red-letter MSS. of a high value abound, and the library is also exceptionally rich in specimens of early printing, of the earliest works illustrated with wood-cuts, and romances of chivalry, one of which last, a folio of 1495, unique and on vellum, discovered in 1850, and sold to its first purchaser for \$250, was bought by M. Didot in 1867 for \$2,000. The same number of *Polybiblion* contains a Galileo bibliography, to be concluded in the December number. We learn from it, too, that M. Claudio Jannet's work on 'Les États-Unis Contemporains' has reached a third edition, and been brought down to date by an account of the late Presidential struggle and the July railroad riots. A second volume has been added, devoted among other subjects to the labor question and the events of the Centennial year. The new notes and appendices are very copious.

—As the probability of the speedy election of a new Pope grows stronger, all information as to the composition of the Conclave and the rules controlling its proceedings is of importance. The standard work in English is still Cartwright's 'On Papal Conclaves,' published in 1868, notwithstanding T. Adolphus Trollope's later work with a similar title. A more trustworthy account than either, however, is to be found in the second volume of the magnificent 'Actes et Histoire du Concile œcuménique de Rome' (Paris, 1870-73). This has, indeed, an almost semi-official character, being contained in a work having the Pope's express sanction, and the author being one of his chamberlains, Barbier de Montault. It is a very clear and concise account of all the ceremonies connected with the meeting of the Conclave and of the manner of voting. Diagrams of the ballots, showing the manner in which they are written, sealed, and folded, are of great assistance in making plain the complicated method of preparing the vote.

—The last number (No. 23) of the *Romania* has as usual a valuable array of articles. Of philological interest are those by L. Havet on the pronunciation of *ie* in French, and an extensive treatise of fifty-nine pages by J. Cornu on the phonology of the dialect of the valley of Bagnes (near Martigny). Of literary interest are an Old-French poem on the legendary life of St. John Chrysostom, and three versions of the Romance of Clotilde collected in Forez and Velay by V. Smith, who endeavors to show that these *chansons* do not refer to Clotilde, daughter of Clovis and wife of Amalaric, but are simply poetical forms of the world-wide story of 'Bluebeard; or, The Cruel Husband.' P. Rajna contributes an interesting study of the sources of the ninth novel of the tenth day of the 'Decameron,' citing a heretofore unnoticed parallel in the 'Dialogus Miraculorum' of Cesar of Heisterbach. P. Meyer communicates the discovery, with extracts, in the National Library at Madrid, of the Catalan treatises by Raimon Vidal on the rules of

poetry and grammar. In the department of *Melanges*, G. Paris suggests a new explanation of the source of the so-called euphonic *t* in the interrogative forms of verbs of the first conjugation. He attributes it not to the resumption of the Latin ending, but to analogy with the endings in *t* of the other conjugations. The same scholar also contributes an extensive review of Charles Aubertin's 'Histoire de la langue et de la littérature Française au moyen âge' (Paris, 1876, vol. i.) In spite of the many inaccuracies it contains, the reviewer pronounces it an excellent work, and destined to fill the long-felt want of a history of early French literature, the compend by Ideler, 'Geschichte der Altfranzösischen National-Literatur' (Berlin, 1842), being justly pronounced dry, incomplete, and more a bibliography than a literary history.

—We cannot be stow unqualified praise upon Koolman's 'Wörterbuch der Ostfriesischen Sprache' (Norden: Braams, 1877), of which the first two *Hefte* lie before us. Certainly in Germany, the home of linguistic science, the lexicographer must be held to strict account, and must at least possess a clear idea of what does and what does not constitute a special or dialect-dictionary. The proper functions of a dialect-dictionary are: 1. To record all the dialectic words and idioms in actual use, but with reasonable brevity. 2. To give etymologies only of such words as are not found in the *Schriftsprache*, or of words that are in dispute. But it can never be the office of a dialect-dictionary to enter into general philology. Against both these principles, but especially against the latter, Koolman has sinned grievously. Thus, under *as*, "acc," we find over three columns of dissertation upon the relations of the word to Sanscrit, Zend, etc., etc., where a simple reference to Grimm, Pott, and Fick would have sufficed. Similarly, *atte*, "father" (the word used by Vuläla), occupies three columns and a half. At this rate a dictionary which might be compressed into one small volume threatens to exceed all reasonable limits. The ordinary reader, who consults his dictionary for mere lexical purposes, does not need such etymologies, and the professed philologist can either work them out for himself or find them in other more standard works. On the other hand, Koolman is altogether too meagre in his explanations of idiomatic phrases and popular sayings. We fear that none but a native East-Frisian will derive much light, for instance, from the long quotation, p. 79. Yet despite its sins of omission and commission, Koolman's work will be, when completed, a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the Germanic dialects. It embodies the labors of one who is thoroughly at home in his field, and has diligently collected words and phrases from the lips of sailor and peasant. In view of the close relationship between the Anglo-Saxon elements of our language and the Frisian, English lexicographers will doubtless derive much aid from it in making future collations. Those who compare the explanation of "ballast" given in Webster's Unabridged with Koolman's "ballast," "baldad," will perceive a marked difference.

#### MEMOIR AND LETTERS OF CHARLES SUMNER.\*

THAT must be a very full life which requires eight hundred pages for its introductory chapters, leaving the hero then at the threshold of his active career. George Sand's autobiography, indeed, reaches its third volume, or thereabouts, before the author's mother is fairly born. But Mr. Pierce disposes of the Sumner ancestry in some thirty pages, all the rest being given to the early years of the statesman himself. Much of the space is, indeed, assigned, as it should be, to his *Wanderjahre*, or period of travel. That period would always have been interesting in his case, even had no career of eminence followed. As it is, the book is none too long, although it carries Mr. Sumner only to his thirty-fourth year, when—as Thoreau said of John Brown—he "began the public practice of philanthropy."

It is fair to begin by saying that a better book of the kind has rarely come from the press. In an age when professed authors have given us books so hopelessly egotistical as Forster's 'Dickens,' or so hopelessly inflated as Alger's 'Forrest,' it is a thing worth celebrating that a practising lawyer, of small literary experience, should have produced a work which could scarcely have been improved. Mr. Pierce has certainly vindicated the confidence which named him as Mr. Sumner's chief literary executor. No industry could have surpassed his laborious collection of materials, nor could his use of them have been clearer or more methodical. He never obtrudes himself, nor does he ever force upon you his own opinion of Mr. Sumner. Where the editor comes into view it is to paint his subject as a man, not as a paragon; and he occasionally meets criticism

\* 'Memoir and Letters of Charles Sumner. By Edward L. Pierce.' 2 vols. Boston: Roberts Brothers. 1877.



half-way by pointing out the causes why Mr. Sumner, with the best intentions, sometimes missed the mark. For its annotations the book has few rivals. There is scarcely an important allusion unexplained, or a person worth describing left without a biographical note. Yet these notes are never ostentatiously full, and in many cases, by a skilful reference to still further relations between their subject and Mr. Sumner, they are linked yet more closely with the main theme of the book. The hint of these biographical notices may have been borrowed from Sumner's edition of Vesey's 'Reports,' where he introduced such notes as a novel feature; but Mr. Sumner was apt to be over-verbose in his details, while Mr. Pierce just touches the golden mean.

The sketch of Charles Sumner's childhood shows us a boy resembling the man in truthfulness and industry, fonder of history and *belles-lettres* than of science, and capable of great feats of memory. The child who at eleven told his teacher that he could answer any question that might be put to him, and at once accepted the test of describing the precise position of Cumana, was evidently the father of the man. For teacher read fellow-senator, for Cumana read Alaska, and you have the public career of Mr. Sumner. This immense and varied information, joined with a perfect sincerity of manner and a noticeable presence, gave the secret of his later social successes in Europe—successes that certainly were not won by tact, but in spite of the absence of tact. This was indeed true of all the successes of his life.

We regret not to find in these volumes any allusion to that feat of swimming the rapids below Niagara which the newspapers have attributed to Charles Sumner. It was too appropriate a prelude to his career to have been omitted, and we infer that it never happened, though Dr. Wm. F. Channing and others are known to have performed the feat. Had Sumner done it, Carlyle might have asked him, as he asked the nation, "Shooting Niagara, and after?" Mr. Pierce says (i. 40): "Swimming was the sport he enjoyed the most"; but he seems to have had no marked athletic taste in early life, unless for pedestrianism, and, after his return from Europe, for riding. As to his studies, he was strong in the languages and in English composition, and had an utter distaste for mathematics—a limitation suggesting some later defects in the action of his powerful mind. His qualities of character were already determined, and he seemed to predict his whole later career when he quoted, in his Bowdoin prize dissertation of 1823, those grand passages of Milton:

"For surely, to every good and peaceful citizen it must in nature needs be a hateful thing to be the displeaser and molester of thousands. But when God commands to take the trumpet, and blow a dolorous or a jarring blast, it lies not in man's will what he shall say or what he shall conceal."

His success at the Law School and his enthusiasm for the study of jurisprudence won him the hearty admiration of those eminent professors, Story and Greenleaf; and the encouragement of the former, especially, gave the first impulse to Sumner's foreign career. Judge Story's legal fame was then very high in Europe, as indeed it has always been: it is not too much to say that the whole body of American lawyers has always been ranked above its deserts in England through the eminence of Story. We well remember the disappointment expressed in English papers when that eminent American abandoned his projected visit to the mother country; and Sumner, going almost as his representative, and bearing presentation copies of his books, was received with a sort of vicarious enthusiasm. The starting point being given, all the rest followed of course. It was not uncommon in those days to hear Sumner called a successful toady by those who stayed at home and had leisure to be envious. No charge could be farther from the truth; the faults of his character looked the other way; he was blunt and rather self-asserting. But he had an honest and insatiable desire to know eminent men; and when we think how easily an intelligent and presentable American may be made a lion in a small way even now, in London, it is easy to imagine how that happened in Sumner's case just forty years ago. This was further aided—though Mr. Pierce does not speak of it—by a certain Anglicism of manner such as is always accepted by Englishmen as a gratifying surprise in a stranger. An eminent Englishman, whose name often appears in these volumes, remarked a few years ago that this was considered almost excessive in Sumner—"there was wanting a distinctive flavor of Americanism," he said; but it is always difficult to tell what our transatlantic cousins expect of us in this way; and it is evident in Sumner's letters that he was a thorough and hearty American all the while, and strongly felt the false social position of the very aristocracy whose society he enjoyed.

One of the most remarkable things in Sumner's foreign trip was

really the daring with which he undertook it, financially and otherwise. A trip to Europe was one of the few things which cost more in 1837 than now. It was to cost him five thousand dollars, of which he had laid by hardly more than a third. Judge Story, Richard Fletcher, and Samuel Lawrence lent him a thousand each, the money being repaid some time after his return, chiefly, as is supposed, by his mother, from the family estate (Pierce, i. 199). It was a great experiment for a poor young man, whose best friends feared that the trip would wean him from his profession. President Quincy told him that all which Europe would do for him would be to spoil him, sending him home with a moustache and a cane—a touching allusion to the innocent undergraduate upper lip and empty hands of that period. It certainly was, in a worldly point of view, the most daring of investments, and only a remarkable series of circumstances justified it by the results.

For two years Mr. Sumner travelled through Europe, devoting himself in England chiefly to society and on the Continent to languages and art. It is curious to compare his views of foreign life and society with those of Mr. Ticknor. It cannot be denied that in Sumner we sometimes miss the genial indifference of the cultivated man of the world, ready to adapt himself to any society, and able to extract philosophic amusement even out of the unthankful and the evil. Yet we gain more than we lose by the change. In Sumner's intense love of truth and right he had a touchstone of character around him; he saw the good, he shrank from the evil, and on the whole obtained the best that any society had to give. His utter absence of humor played an important part in this result; it limited his range and made some types of character incomprehensible, but it enhanced the clearness of his moral comprehensions and the vigor of his portraiture. He never played with life; he would have been a happier and perhaps more useful man if he could have played more; and he did not, even at twenty-six, play at travelling. He fulfilled that grim saying of Thoreau, that "true and sincere travelling is no joke; it is as serious as the grave, or any other part of the human journey." It was in this spirit that Sumner went through Europe. If you cannot take up his memoirs with as unvarying relish, in an idle hour, as the delightful letters of Ticknor, it is because Sumner's letters really give much more solid nutriment, and carry the reader deeper among men and things.

One of the things which will be found most useful to young travellers, in these volumes, is their picture of the energy and success with which Mr. Sumner studied languages. When he first visited Paris, all else was postponed for the sake of acquiring the spoken language, he having learned to read French in college. His lodgings, his pursuits, his society were all chosen with this reference. When he arrived he could hardly comprehend a sentence; in less than a month he could follow a lecturer; in six weeks participate in conversation; and at the end of three months he served as interpreter before a magistrate at the trial of a fellow-countryman. After four months in Italy, he writes:

"I have German to learn, but I have the consolation of knowing that I know as much about it now as I did of Italian when I came to Italy. I did not understand the 'Carta di Sicurezza' that was given me at the gate of San Giovanni, when I entered Rome, the 21st of May. At the first town that I come to in Germany I shall stop, take a master, and commence an assault for one week; then move on, studying on the road to Vienna; three weeks in Vienna—a master all the time; then to Prague, Dresden, Berlin, and probably next down to Heidelberg" (ii. 116).

A few days after he writes to Prof. Greene, of his study of Italian:

"My rule is, at least six hours a day. There is no Italian which I cannot understand without a dictionary; there is hardly a classic in the language of which I have not read the whole or considerable portions. I understand everything that is said in a coach; can talk on any subject—always making abundant mistakes, but with such facility that all the valets and waiters, even in this French-speaking place, address me in the language *del bel paese là dove 'l si suona'*" (ii. 118).

Again he writes to Greene, after five months in Germany and Austria:

"In this last place [Heidelberg] I fixed myself for five weeks. I knew the best people there; and I studied, read, and talked German. Indeed I found myself able, when it was time to leave, to understand all that was said, and to carry on a conversation tolerably well" (ii. 145).

One who carries such energy into the study of languages will be apt to show it in the use he makes of them; and Mr. Sumner certainly made ample use, for his whole life long, of the experience thus early won. His letters do not bristle with statistics, like the foreign letters of Theodore Parker; nor do they abound in good-natured social gossip, like those of George Ticknor; but they give strong pictures of leading men and women, and they are softened by a love of literature which gives a needed relief in the absence of humor. His advantages were immense; he had

in London five invitations a day (i. 324); in Westminster Hall he sat in the "Queen's Counsel row," and "resolutely declined" to sit on the bench with the judges (ii. 13). It was said in London after his Northern journey that he made the acquaintance of all the principal Whig families going North, and of the Tories on his return. Mrs. Parkes, the granddaughter of Dr. Priestley, writes of him that "he was wondrously popular, almost like a meteor passing through the country" (i. 397). Mr. Henry Reeve writes: "I think I still hear him repeating a passage from Burke, or engaging in debate on some nice question of international law" (i. 395). But perhaps the most remarkable testimony is that of Mr. Abraham Hayward, the translator of 'Faust,' and the author of that celebrated compliment to Mr. Sumner in the *Quarterly Review* so often quoted in the United States. The compliment may be found in Pierce's 'Memoir' (i. 303); but Mr. Hayward, writing at a later period, while renewing his testimonial to Mr. Sumner's social success, confesses himself a little puzzled to explain it. He says:

"His powers of conversation were not striking; and when you ask me to recall the qualities which account for his success, I must frankly own that it was, and is, as much a puzzle to me as the eminent and widespread success of your countryman and townsman, Mr. George Ticknor. At the same time, I feel satisfied that in each instance the success was indisputable and well deserved" (i. 306).

Mr. Sumner's sketches of character are never delicate, incisive, or subtle, but strong, straightforward, and the result of careful observation. Some of them are as good as Miss Martineau's, and all command more complete confidence than her's. Of Lord Brougham, for instance, no one has given a more effective picture:

"He passed from topic to topic, expressing himself always with force, correctness, and forcibility univalued; but, I must say, with a manner not only far from refined, but even vulgar. He had no gentleness or suavity; neither did he show any of the delicate attentions of the host. . . . I have dined in company nearly every day since I have been in England, and I do not remember to have met a person who swore half as much as Lord Brougham; and all this in conversation with an aged clergyman. His manner was rapid, hurried, and his voice very loud. He seemed uneasy and restless, and made me feel the same. His language, as you may suppose, was vigorous and to the point. . . . I am disposed to think that there is in him a nervousness and immense activity which is near akin to insanity, and which at present jangles the otherwise even measures of his character" (i. 350-2).

Mr. Sumner made the discovery, so often made by Americans, that many English people and things are less well known in England than in the United States; the mental and moral influence of London comes to us free from the local smoke and roar. In a letter to Mrs. Judge Howe, of Cambridge, Sumner says:

"We judge English authors better than the English themselves; all here are too near them. When I see the foppishness of Bulwer every day, and hear his affected voice, should not that disenchant me from the spell of his composition? You, sitting in your rocking-chair and joining reading to your household duties, actually keep a better run of English literature than many—ay, than most—of the English themselves. London is so full and teeming and mighty that it is next to impossible for anybody to do more than attend to his own affairs and take care of himself. The magazines and reviews are not read here with half the avidity they are in America; and when read are not judged with the same dispassionate fairness" (ii. 18).

Mr. Sumner returned from England in 1840, at the age of twenty-nine. The years that followed were, as might have been predicted, years of some mental reaction. After the excitements of his foreign "apotheosis," as his friend, Henry Cleveland, called it, the drudgery of a law-office was unattractive. His reception was, of course, enthusiastic, but his circle of friends was changed by death or marriage; his sister Mary died; he himself was very near death from illness, and there was a time when life looked very dark to him. In many respects Mr. Pierce's account of this period is admirable, but he perhaps goes too far in saying that "Sumner was at this time a great favorite in Boston society" (ii. 153). He was undoubtedly much admired, but he had personal traits which brought upon him some criticism from men and a great deal from women. Old Bostonians maintained that Sheriff Sumner's son was not, after all, born in the purple; and young Bostonians sometimes alleged that his demeanor was as towering as his person. As an anonymous lady writes to Mr. Pierce (ii. 162), "his manners were frank and manly, not polished"; and as Dr. O. W. Holmes says on the same page, he rather monopolized conversation, and he never could take a joke. The substantial admiration of the wise and good he doubtless had; but that alone does not make a man a favorite, and there probably was never a moment of Mr. Sumner's American experience when that epithet could accurately describe him.

Time passed on; and what career was to open before this young man so highly gifted in brain and heart and so conspicuous in his early social opportunities? He was a lawyer, and ready to work in his profession; but the few lucrative cases which came to him were obtained by him rather as the friend of Judge Story, it has always been thought, than in any other way. He hoped for a professorship in the Harvard Law School, but did not obtain it; he would willingly have been reporter to the Supreme Court, but that plan also failed. His greatest powers, the gifts which were the key to his later career, were hardly even suspected. A single day—July 4, 1845—revealed those gifts to the world. Had he died on the morning of that day, his fame would have lived, at most, through a brief biography and a small volume of "Literary Remains," as was the case with his friend Cleveland. On the evening of that day his reputation was established as that of an orator of extraordinary force and a reformer possessed of absolute fearlessness. Well do we remember a description of his Fourth-of-July address by one of those unflinching old "Come-Outers" whom Lynn and Cape Cod sent up to Boston in those days—men "devoted," as Emerson said, "to the worrying of clergymen," and who hated with almost equal hatred the clerical and military garb. "There were those pro-slavery clergymen," he said, "with hearts as black as their coats, and there stood Charles Sumner with a heart as white as his waistcoat." Mr. Sumner's white waistcoat and trousers, with his gilt-buttoned dress-coat, must have been as conspicuous on his large person as the militia uniforms that surrounded him; and he spoke on that day the most unwelcome things with the heartiest relish. Mr. Pierce says, with candor rare in a biographer, that "his fervor carried him to some positions which his later judgment qualified, and to some forms of expression which his taste afterwards modified or rejected altogether." But the speech, as originally made, was the turning point of his career; it is rarely that any public life revolves upon so well-marked and unmistakable a pivot, and his biographer does well to let this preliminary memoir end here.

A few points of detail we find to criticize in the excellent editing of this book. Mr. Pierce says (i. 316) that William Sullivan "wrote upon the characters and events of the Revolution"; but it would have been more correct to say "of the period immediately succeeding the Revolution." Almost the only person mentioned by Mr. Sumner and not elucidated by his biographer, is that very remarkable man David Urquhart, author of 'The Spirit of the East'; and the neglect is aggravated by the accidental misspelling of his name (ii. 39). To say that Prof. Geo. W. Greene resides "on an ancestral estate at East Greenwich, R. I." (ii. 93, note), is to apply rather too large an epithet to a modest paternal farm; and to call the residence of Prof. Longfellow "Craigie House" instead of by the local appellation of "the Craigie house," looks a little in the same direction. Prof. Andrews Norton here wears appended to his name, both in text and index, the Doctorate which he refused in his lifetime. There is a grammatical flaw in the note on p. 176 (vol. ii.), and an erroneous French accent on p. 397. But this is really a very trifling array of criticisms upon a book so large and of such varied range; and the absence of merely typographical errors is surprising. The mechanical execution of the book quite surpasses that of Ticknor or Martineau, and it is a work, as a whole, of which American literature has reason to be proud.

*Gift-Books.*—First on the list of those which lie on our table we select for mention the works of Wilhelm Unger (New York: J. W. Bouton). Mr. Unger has now completed his series of seventy-two etchings from the works of old masters in the museums of Brunswick, Cassel, etc., and the surprising versatility and interpretative quickness of his wonderful hand continue to the close. The work has been coming out in parts, each containing seven plates, and the last five parts, now on our table, contain some of the best achievements of the etcher. That from Rembrandt's "Anatomy Lesson" is perhaps the most striking in the latter portion of the series, and in luminous and colored quality there can be no doubt that this study, a mere incident in a serial publication, well sustains comparison with the great challenge-picture by L. Fleming. It is penetrated with the rich vital life which reaches forth to us, with so strange and searching a scrutiny, from the seventeenth century and the atelier of Rembrandt. A hardly inferior power is shown in the copy from Franz Hals, "The Two Young Musicians"—a graphic sketch of a virtuoso and his friend reading the music-book and beating time as they forget to play the guitar. Unger has earned a monopoly of Hals, however, and no etcher ought to touch his magical improvisations for centuries to come; they are *tours de force* that can only be followed by the fingers of a



specialist, and Unger renders him as Rubinstein renders Beethoven. The etching of Rembrandt's "Entombment," a painting existing in duplicate at Munich and Dresden, is richly adequate to the original, with its contrast of sharp candlelight within the sepulchre and pallid eclipsed sunshine streaming into the cave from Calvary. The lesser masters, such as Terburg with his satin dresses, Wouvermans with his white hobby, and Metzua are rendered with all the nicety of a *précieux*, and with a compulsory forgetfulness of the energy that has gone to the interpretation of Hals. Jan Steen's "Fête des Rois," forming the fiftieth plate, where a child is crowned, and drinks deeper than is good for him amid the applause of the company, is translated with cordial freedom, but another Jan Steen, the "Marriage Contract," is a little tame, and a Jan der Meer is timid and over-finished. Taken together, the volume filled by this protean etcher is by far the greatest curiosity of sympathetic copy-work that our generation has seen. It is worthily printed on paper expressly made for it by Van Gelder of Amsterdam; and Vosmaer's text, in English, has the advantage of special type-founding and a special printer.

The quarto volume entitled "Gems of the Centennial Exhibition" (New York: Appletons) is of the kind to which Worlds' Fairs have accustomed us, and which first see the light in illustrated newspapers or art-journals. Their value lies chiefly in the engravings of the various objects of art and use—pottery, silverware, furniture, carpets, laces, etc., etc.—and very little, if at all, in the descriptive text. The principle of selection precludes criticism: if you are dealing with "gems" there is nothing to do but to describe and admire. The present volume is neither better nor worse in this respect than those that have preceded it. It is beautifully printed and tastefully bound, and the woodcuts explain sufficiently the material and the decorative details of the objects represented, which are of many degrees of excellence.

"Persons, Places, and Things" (Philadelphia: Lippincott) is an entertaining collection of tales of travel and adventure that at one time or another have appeared in *Lippincott's Magazine*. They take the reader over a great portion of the earth, and even, in "Travels in the Air," a few miles up into the earth's atmosphere, and cannot fail to fill some gap in the knowledge of even the best-read. They are besides liberally illustrated. Since they do credit to the magazine that gave them birth, we might have looked for some mention of their origin, as well as of the papers in the companion volume, called "Wanderings in Four Continents," to which the "Glimpses of Constantinople" and Mr. Edward King's "Montenegro" give a certain actuality, as the French say. In this honest company the impudent but amusing Paul Marcey walks unabashed, though not unabridged. He will be found in "In the Valleys of Peru."

These are modest volumes as compared with "The Rhine," published by the same house. This solid quarto, with its large print, broad margin, florid binding, and four hundred and twenty-five illustrations, bears on its face the stamp of the holidays. It is the work of three writers, Karl Stieler, H. Wachenhusen, and F. W. Hackländer, of whom the first is much the prosiest. The river is traced from its source to the sea. Excursions into the tributary valleys of the Lahn and Main take us to the grave of Stein and the birthplace of Goethe, as the main river carries us past the city of Beethoven—three as great names in their several fields as Germany can produce. The woodcuts are of course full of interest, especially from an architectural and historic point of view; their art is of the familiar German school. A great majority of them fill a significant portion of the page, and not a few fill it altogether and well. The reading-matter is more lively than a guide-book, but is not to be called captivating. We have been struck by the absence of any allusion to the river that would offend the most fastidious Frenchman.

"Golden Songs of Great Poets" (New York: Sarah H. Leggett) is a book that recalls the old-fashioned Annuals. Like them, it applies all the luxury of paper and type to a series of rather uninteresting contributions by authors more or less eminent. Poets always seem to reserve their second-best work for books of this description. Perhaps they reason, as authors do when engaging in subscription books, that none of their particular friends will be likely to see what they write. Here are original poems by Holmes, Bryant, Longfellow, Whittier, and Bayard Taylor. It would seem safe to expect something good, and yet there really is not a poem between these covers which would have attracted any particular attention if it had been anonymously printed. The illustrations are abundant, and are in some cases beautiful, especially those by Moran and Hart; but there is one picture of ghouls or harpies, by Fredericks, which is far too suggestive of nightmare to be wholesome for contemplation at the mince-pie season.

Its handsome attire, and the obvious outlay involved in producing it in its present form, entitle Mr. James Parton's "Caricature and Other Comic Art in All Times and Many Lands" (Harpers) to be named in any list of gift-books. Readers of *Harper's Magazine* have enjoyed the greater part of it already; but the illustrations now exceed two hundred. It seems singular that a mind so devoid of humor as Mr. Parton's should twice betake itself to the study of the humorous, in poetry and in art. The paradox, however explainable, stands out in the very preface of the volume before us, and is never long obscured in the subsequent chapters. Mr. Parton has, nevertheless, followed the two highest authorities on the subject of caricature, and has brought together a great many interesting facts and a long series of more or less amusing and typical designs. The closing chapters relate to early and the later American caricature. Mr. Nast is allowed a pre-eminence which will be generally conceded him, but the more spontaneous and less melodramatic Mr. Bellew—an older soldier, too, if not a better—deserved, we think, representation by specimens of his best work, instead of a bare mention.

Mr. Benjamin Parke Avery's "California Pictures in Prose and Verse" (Hurd & Houghton) is also a compilation of magazine articles, showily printed and bound. Its title fairly conveys an idea of its very unpretentious contents. The author aims to inform his readers of the leading features of Californian scenery and topography, omitting the more familiar resorts, which have already been described to death. He points out numerous localities which would repay a visit on the part of the tourist, especially the lover of the picturesque: gives an account of the geysers, of an ascent of Mt. Shasta by himself and wife, of the aborigines and their arrow-factory, and ends with a tragic episode in his mining experience in 1850—perhaps the most entertaining chapter in the book. Mr. Avery does not overrate his verse, and that is all we need say of it. The illustrations are pleasing and well selected.

"Abide with Me" (Boston: Lee & Shepard), "The Ninety and Nine" (Boston: D. Lothrop & Co.), and "The Flood of Years" (G. P. Putnam's Sons) are so many poems with full-page illustrations, initial and tail-pieces, etc., etc., of which we expect a crop every year, and which almost invariably prove disappointing as proof of imagination or skill on the part of the designer, let the engraver's work be never so good. Neither Miss Humphreys's nor Mr. Lewis's art adds anything to or redeems the first two poems; and Mr. Linton has not been inspired by Mr. Bryant in his attempt to adorn and interpret "The Flood of Years." His washy, almost washed-out, style of engraving has indeed a certain appropriateness for the subject, but that is all.

The old-fashioned Album survives in "The Gathering of the Lilies" (Philadelphia: J. L. Sibole & Co.), of which both the poetry and the colored and plain lithographic designs are by the author, L. Clarkson. Neither rise above mediocrity. A considerable variety of lilies are figured and personified at once, and are made to express their character in not faulty, but not in any way remarkable, verse.

*The House Beautiful*. Essays on Beds, Tables, Stools, and Candlesticks. By Clarence Cook. (New York: Scribner, Armstrong & Co. 1878. Pp. 326, and 111 illustrations.)—Mr. Cook's articles in *Scribner's Monthly*, known by that which is the second title of his present book, came out at varying intervals between June, 1875, and May, 1877. They were widely read and commented on. The woodcuts were so pretty and so interesting to the many persons who care—or think they ought to care—about furnishing and ornamenting houses, that these pictures alone would have caused a sufficient sale and a diligent turning over of the numbers which contained them. And probably the text was interesting to most of its readers. But after a time there began to be complaints that the hints were too vague; that the information was not precise enough; that the author did not "come to the point"; that people could not take the book and follow its advice in minutia, even as "travellers on the Continent" go to the hotels and buy at the shops approved by "Murray." Some of these complaints the assailed author met and replied to, and the answer naturally would be, it was, and it still is, that Mr. Cook is not a professional adviser, and that professional advice suited to each case as it arises is not to be printed in monthlies and sold for thirty-five cents, but must be obtained in other ways. *Suggestion* is what the essay-writer gives to his readers—suggestion, and not rules of action. The essay-writer, from Bacon to Emerson, undertakes to educate, and not to give directions: to "enlarge the mind" and increase the scope of vision, and not to tell people what to do on each occasion that may arise. And as for the books that attempt to prescribe for each patient and to give a recipe for each dish, are they not all as dreary as cookery books or

handbooks of domestic medicine. From Quatremère de Quincy, laying down the law about domestic architecture, and ruling out the chimneys as contrary to the canons of classical art, to Hays and to Chevreul, giving their lists of the admissible contrasts and harmonies of color—what is all that literature of domestic art but a dreary list of abandoned fashions, misunderstood and never-applied principles, and forgotten authors? And, without asserting or implying that nothing more categorical than Mr. Cook's chatty papers could be successfully attempted, it may yet be safely said that they have secured more attentive readers, and in that way have prepared more people to think and act right, than they could have done if more intentionally and "practically" instructive.

The objections to the work may almost be summed up in two: the furniture shown in the woodcuts and praised in the text is too dear, and this furniture cannot be procured for want of working-drawings for it. Now, of these two troubles the first may be justly chargeable upon the book. It is not a poor man's *vale mecum*, it is rather ambitious, and there are not enough (though there are some) very inexpensive objects shown and explained. But as to the second difficulty, nothing that the author undertook to do or could have done would have removed it. To have given drawings from which pieces of furniture could be made by ordinary workmen, direct, would have swelled the book to great size and cost, and have encumbered it with that which only a limited number of its readers would be likely to demand.

There has been a book very successful in this country, not more "practical" than this and not half so bright, with ugly designs in it, compared to those before us, and nothing on earth but novelty to recommend it greatly, which has given a name to an existing fashion in furniture. The good that that book has done by awakening attention, almost any other book on the same subject would have done as well. "The House Beautiful" is in every respect of more importance; and coming later, finding a more "receptive" public, and much better calculated to please after more than a week's possession, its success might be almost taken for granted. It is a daintily-finished and elegant book, besides, with a not ill-designed cover and great completeness in its arrangements within, except that, oddly enough, the numbers given with the cuts do not agree with the numbers in the "List of Illustrations."

*L'Art: Revue hebdomadaire illustrée.* (Paris: A. Ballue; New York: J. W. Bouton.)—The objection to many illustrated periodicals, that the size of their page does not permit the development of an art-idea of any considerable intricacy, is in their case insuperable, and is not to be met every time by the boast of excessive delicacy and concentration of workmanship. The *Gazette des Beaux Arts* continually suffers from this want of elbow-room, and its artists are sometimes compelled to study the mere corner of a great original, with a result like those pocket editions of elegant extracts which "sample" celebrated authors by their episodes and parentheses. Perceiving this loss of power, and conscious that narrowness is often wastefulness, the getters-up of this class of journals are apt to dally with various forms of the quarto; but a large sphere of usefulness opens at once to the editor who boldly adopts a scale limited only by the convenience of the reading-desk or the bookstand. The large folio leaf of *L'Art* is then its first title to favorable criticism; it has enabled the editor, in the course of the ten volumes now published, to present the complete effect of painted ceilings and domes, the ornamental work of architectural façades and arches, the ample brushing of Japanese stencilled polychromes, fac-similes from old-fashioned engravings big enough to show the touch, and landscapes undegraded by a pettiness that suggests the Claude-Lorrain glass.

The advantage of the broadside-scale is especially shown in the illustrations that go with certain papers on the centenary festival of Rubens, in this volume; these are photogravures of the drawings of the master, than whom none could suffer more by the compressing of an arm-sweep style into tiny delicacy. The head of Marie de Médicis, drawn by Rubens to serve as an authority for the series of enormous works in her honor now stretching through the Louvre, is here very interesting as a nearly life-sized cartoon, but would become weak in miniature. The etchings, from modern paintings of current interest, are, however, the special justifications of the scale adopted; the only question is, whether beauty presented in these lavish dimensions does not defeat the object of the publisher as a bookmaker, and awaken a grudge at shutting up so much excellence between the covers of a volume. One longs to frame every one of the eighteen velvety-looking beauties contributed by Gaucherel, Waltner, Monzi's, Chauvel, Lalauze, and other experts in aquafortis to this volume, which is perhaps the richest yet issued in that particular species

of embellishment. The "Gleaner," by Potémont, after J. Breton, is very successful in giving, besides the statuesque swing of the elastic walker, a feeling of the deepening atmosphere of a good painting—a feeling of the "night thickens" of Macbeth. Lovers of intricate literary conceits expressed in fine-art will be beguiled and re-beguiled with the "Beguiling of Merlin," etched from Burne Jones, and with the various sore-mouthed nymphs shaken by ineffable emotions which have been copied from the stores of that painting Neo-Platonist. The etching after Fortuny, of "Moors playing with a Vulture," will be a boon to many a Fortuny-lover, though it has not the scholarly simplicity and directness of a real Fortuny plate. Van Marcke, chief of the disciples of Troyon, is under obligations to the aquafortist for the incomparably rich and soft effect he has got in copying the cattle-piece from the last Salon, belonging to Mr. Brown, of Philadelphia. Bonnat's portrait of Thiers, an historical memoir altogether worthy of its subject, suffers a little from the uniform blackness of every part of the work except the face and hands, which accordingly glow on their gloomy background with a planetary look of being lost in space, not characteristic of the painting. There is a bold, sketchy handling in the flower-piece of Juan de Arellano, copied from this painter's beautiful canvas in the Blodgett collection—"that collection at once so varied and so choice," as the text says.

While this text is amusingly incisive and outspoken, its very keenness will prepare the judicious reader for hearing opinions that are open to contradiction. The conviction, so deep in many person's minds, that we must go to French writers for the really delicate discernment of matters pertaining to art, receives a shock when leading critics are found to contradict each other flatly. This discrepancy is observable not only in the case of reputations which several centuries have been trying to settle, but in contemporary estimates. From the beginning *L'Art* has shown a disposition to nag at its old-established neighbor the *Gazette*; and in the present volume there are signs that this insubordination is not yet subdued. There is an allusion to the "weak, flaccid, pretty, pomaded painting" of Cabanel, an artist whom the *Gazette* has repeatedly selected for illustration. The *Gazette* may by this time be willing to leave Cabanel to the infidels, but in the case of Harpignies, a landscapist who is still supposed to have life in him, it will be hard if it do not organize a sally against the crusaders. "The champion water-colorist this season, in our opinion, is M. Harpignies," the *Gazette* has pronounced; "his series of little landscape studies is simply exquisite; he never did better, perhaps, than this year." Whereas the utterance of the critic in *L'Art* concerning the same water-colors is disrespectful in the extreme. "Friend Harpignies," he remarks, "I have a terrible itch to tell you unpleasant truths. I am not the man to excuse your firework effects." The painfulness of this disagreement between doctors can hardly be allayed by the physical slightness of the bodies in dispute, unkindly alluded to by the last-quoted critic as "mere visiting-cards." Of our own artist Whistler *L'Art* acknowledges the "remarkable talent," but considers that at the Grosvenor Gallery it was not favorably represented. Of other Americans the journal has yet to discern the existence, declaring in set terms that "Columbus himself could not discover America" at a Salon where there were forty exhibitors from that part of America alone covered by our own Government. Upon the publication of this hard sentence, Columbus was moved to appear in vindication; and quickly wrote from the tomb, in support of the American exhibitors, a letter exhibiting the humor of Cervantes in the chivalry of Don Quixote. The critic who has made the remark lost no time in replying to the shade of the great Genoese, reiterating the assertion, and promising that when American painting should come to show "a distinct physiognomy" he would hasten to inform his readers. It is hard to see the complete justice of such criticisms as this, unless America were a country that had grown, like Japan or India, without pressure from other civilizations. The greatest stickler for a national "physiognomy" would be puzzled to say why Motley and Prescott ought to have had an "American" style in their writings, or how Mr. Bridgman, the medalled exhibitor of this year's Salon, could have had an "American" style in which to paint his "Burial of the Mummy."

*Charlotte von Stein: A Memoir.* By Geo. H. Calvert. (Boston: Lee & Shepard. 1877.)—This little book is Mr. Calvert's second contribution to the Goethe literature. It is on the whole an interesting work, not so much for the special student of German literature as for the general reader who wishes to catch a glimpse of the brilliant Weimar society of Karl August. Weimar is perhaps the only city that ever deserved the much-abused name of modern Athens. In its streets, for many years,



could be daily seen Goethe, Schiller, Wieland, Herder, and lesser lights; the power of bringing such minds together having ever been one of the advantages of a monarchical over a republican form of government. With all these great men Frau von Stein lived on terms of intimacy and daily intercourse, and to read about her is therefore to read about them. This is what gives the present memoir its chief interest, although Frau von Stein was a woman whose character deserves to be studied for its own sake. Her acquaintance with Goethe, personal and epistolary, lasted half a century. For ten years she was his confidential correspondent and confessor. "She sang well, played well, sketched well, talked well, appreciated poetry, and handled sentiment with the delicate tact of a woman of the world," says Lewes, in his admirable work on Goethe, which even in Germany is recognized as the standard biography. To her Goethe addressed more than a thousand letters, and his interesting and realistic 'Italian Journey' is made up principally of the letters written to her in the

course of his travels. There is no doubt that Goethe's poetic licenses in his relations to women are out of the question here. In fact, the author makes out a strong case for the view that his heroine had a restraining and refining influence on the impulses of the young poet. The letters to Von Stein have been published in Germany, in three volumes, but her answers to them unfortunately were destroyed by her own hand. Besides these letters, the author acknowledges his chief indebtedness to H. Dantzer's two-volume biography of Charlotte von Stein, which appeared three years ago. The style of the memoir before us is, in the narrative parts, simple and straightforward, but there is rather too much cheap sentiment mixed up with them. Such verbiage as this: "... lights sparsely sprinkled along the crepuscular confines of earthly space, upflaming beacons out of unconfined infinity," is foreign to the spirit of our age, and should have been buried with the eighteenth century.

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THIRTY-FOURTH YEAR.

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